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Sketch of the Life of
Deacon Jonathan Wheelock
of
Cavendish, Vermont
by

Gertrude Bernadette Wilgus

Ascutney, Vermont

1942

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Foreword

These records were compiled for the descendants of Deacon Jonathan Wheelock in the hope that they will find them helpful when they write the memoirs of his sons and daughters.

Readers of this sketch are invited to send corrections of such mistakes as they may find, with references, to the author who will then have them, with the sender's name, inserted in the manuscript.

To Mr. Hiram Harlow of Shrewsbury, Mass., to Miss Etta Smith of Peterborough, N.H. and to Mr. Walton Green of Cavendish, Vt. I offer my grateful thanks for their never failing help in the gathering of these records and traditions.

And to my husband my growing esteem for his sound advice and continued interest in all that relates to the Cavendish branch of the Wheelocks in America.

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Deacon Jonathan Wheelock
1727 - 1798

Chapter I
INTRODUCTION

We call him Deacon Jonathan Wheelock of Cavendish, Vermont, but if life is measured by years and work then he should be called Deacon Jonathan Wheelock of Shrewsbury, Massachusetts, for in that town he was born, there he was married, there his seven children were born and there he lived and worked for his family, his town and his church until his forty-ninth year. Then came the Revolution and all his world went upside down.

The lovely peace and security of that prosperous farming community disappeared. Controversies raged between the people and their Loyalist ministers. In the North Parish of Shrewsbury the disputes were so bitter that friends, even families, were separated* and unfortunately Jonathan's home farm lay just south of that North Parish.

It was a good farm, 220 acres of garden and orchard, of tillage, pasture, woodlot and deep springs; but he sold it all in 1775 and with his family moved north to Peterborough, New Hampshire.

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*Worcester Magazine, V. 2, p. 31.
Historical Sketch of Boylston by Matthew Davenport, p. 13.
History of Shrewsbury (1847) by A. H. Ward, p.p. 207-209.

His stay there was short, only three and one-half years, but during those years he wrote his name on the pages of Peterborough's history as a patriot and townsman.

He had a good farm there of 150 acres, a comfortable house and well built barns, but he sold everything in 1779 and returned to Massachusetts; not to old Shrewsbury but to Townsend in Middlesex County, where he spent the next three years farming with profit. Then came another move, this time to Ashby the neighboring town to the west. Once again land was bought, barns were stocked and he entered into the life of the town and of the church. Ashby held him for seven years and then in 1789 again he sold all and again moved, this time to Cavendish, Vermont.

The town records of Cavendish tell us that he bought farms, woodlots and stock but of his seven children at first only two, Joseph Drury and John Gleason, were with him. The others were scattered. Jonathan, Jr. was in old Ruby, New Hampshire, Ebenezer and Zeruiah in Whiting, Vermont, Anna in Salem, and Jotham in Lunenburg, Massachusetts.

Tradition in the town of Cavendish tells us that Deacon Jonathan Wheelock bought five large farms in that town, all five adjoining or near his own home farm. These were for his children; he wanted his family around him. He was sixty-two and craved the comfort of home life, of home folks, and the peace of his beloved church.

Gradually his other children came to Cavendish. His oldest daughter Anna Upton and her family came in 1792, Jotham in 1790, Jonathan, Jr. in 1798, while Ebenezer and Zeruiah rode over from Whiting as often as work and roads permitted.

Deacon Jonathan was content. His children were near him, his farms were tidy and productive and his church free of dissension. It was a patriarchial life and for the first time since he left Shrewsbury in 1775, he felt at home; perhaps that is why his descendants call him "Deacon Jonathan Wheelock of Cavendish, Vermont."

Chapter II

Shrewsbury, Massachusetts.

1717 - 1775

Jonathan Wheelock was the son of Gershom of Shrewsbury and the grandson of Samuel of Medfield, Mass. The latter left his native town in 1684-5 and went to Marlboro where his name is found on the tax list for 1688.* He was then a young man of twenty-four. About that time he married Lydia the daughter of Henry Rice of Sudbury. Unfortunately the records of Marlboro and Sudbury prior to 1700 are imperfect, so the date of the marriage and the births of their two oldest children Gershom and Lydia are unknown.

But Samuel was not content with Marlboro. He looked to the southwest where lay Shrewsbury, unsettled, unworked but waiting. Samuel and his friends watched the new township; they knew that men "passed through"** her lands on their way to open other towns and they were glad that none stopped in Shrewsbury. Patiently they worked and waited. Their reward came in 1717 when "Rights were granted to a group of men mostly from Marlboro to settle in that township (Shrewsbury) provided they numbered forty families, built themselves houses and procured an orthodox minister all within three years."***

In the early records we read that the whole central part of Shrewsbury was known as the "Haines Grant" or "Haines Great Farm." On December 10, 1716 this Grant of 3200 acres was divided into

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* New England Hist. and Gen. Register, V. 36, p. 192.
** Worcester Magazine, V. 2, p. 1.
*** History of Shrewsbury by Andrew H. Ward, p. 9, and Old Times in Shrewsbury by Elizabeth Ward, p. 11.

three sections called Squadrons, the North, Middle and South Squadron, which was possibly a corruption of the word quadrant. Samuel Wheelock's "Right" was in the North Squadron. It lay along the "Country Road", later called the Post Road, leading from Boston to Worcester. It consisted of 100 acres of "upland meadow and swamp" and was part of the original Haines Great Farm. Samuel Wheelock immediately sent his oldest son Gershom out to that "Right" and there on the north side of the Country Road Gershom Wheelock built the first house in the new town of Shrewsbury.* It was the winter of 1717 and tradition tells us that he "worked there alone, keeping up his spirits through the cold dreary days by his merry whistling, sleeping in the loft and pulling the ladder up after him at night."** The house faced south and was "an humble edifice principally of logs one story with ample stone chimney."*** To the west the land sloped gently down to Middle Brook, while to the east it rose up and over a wooded ridge. Because this house and the 100 acre "Right" on which it stood were owned by Samuel Wheelock, he is sometimes called the first settler of Shrewsbury. That is an error. While the "Right" was granted to Samuel, it was his son Gershom who built and improved the place and had it ready for his parents when they moved there from Marlboro sometime in 1717.

It is pleasant to know that the work done by Gershom on the "whistling house" was appreciated, for we read that on "March 11, 1720 Samuel Wheelock of Shrewsbury, husbandman, for the love and good will I do have for my dutiful son Gershom Wheelock of said town husbandman do give unto him 80 acres of land in Shrewsbury....bounded

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* Family Register by Andrew H. Ward, Worcester Magazine (1826) p.26.
** Old Times in Shrewsbury by Elizabeth Ward, p. 12 and Ward's History of Shrewsbury (1847) p. 466.
*** History of Worcester by W. Lincoln, p. 12.

east by my new dwelling house."*

As Gershom had married the previous year this land became his first homestead. His wife was Abigail Flagg daughter of Benjamin and Experience (Child) Flagg of Worcester. Their marriage record is interesting in its description of the town of Shrewsbury. It reads "Gershom Wheelock of or near joining Worcester and Abigail Fleg were married in Sudbury January 1, 1718-19."** On this 80 acre gift Gershom built his own home, with relatives and friends nearby, and with none of the sombre loniiness that surrounded the building of the first house. A few short steps to the east his father, mother, seven sisters and one young brother were all comfortably settled in the whistling house. To the south in the Middle Squadron lived his brother Samuel, Jr. of whom it was said "as no relationship has been known to exist between this Samuel and Deacon Samuel he was probably of another family."*** But a relationship did exist, that of father and son, which is proved by the following: "On Feb. 13 1720, Samuel Wheelock seign. of Shrewsbury, yeoman, for love and goodwill....do give unto my son Samuel Wheelock Ju. of Shrewsbury....a part of the Middle Squadron of Haneses Farm....and it is situated southerly of my new dwelling house."**** This was really a very lovely wedding gift, for two days later, on "Feb. 15 1720 Samuel Wheelock of Shrewsbury and Huldah Rice of West Brough [Westborough] were married in Marlboro."*****

Samuel and Huldah built a house on this land. It stood on a knoll south of the falls of Middle Meadow Brook and was their home

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* Worcester District Registry of Deeds, V. 23, p. 214.
** Sudbury, V.S.
*** Family Register by Andrew H. Ward.
**** Worcester District Registry of Deeds, V. 5, p. 469.
***** Marlboro, V.S.

for many years. The town was gradually being settled. People no longer "passed through"* but remained to build houses and clear lands. Then came a set-back. Shrewsbury had its first fire. A home was burned to the ground. Tradition says it was the first house built in the town.** If so it was the whistling house, the home of Samuel Wheelock, Sr., which would account for his purchase on June 25, 1722, of Samuel Crosby's dwelling house near the falls of Middle Meadow Brook.

Before moving down to the falls, Samuel Wheelock, Sr. sold his 100 acre farm on the ~~East~~ Country Road to Benjamin Townsend, who resold the place a few months later to the widow Dorothy Johnson. But Dorothy did not buy an empty acreage. Her deed calls for a certain tract of land containing "100 acres of upland, meadow and swamp....known by the name of Haines Great Farm on Middle/Meadow Brook, together with the dwelling house, other buildings and fences....bounded west by Gershom Wheelock's land." The deed was signed May 11, 1723.*** All of this proves that if the whistling house had been destroyed by fire another house had quickly been built on the same land, either by Samuel Wheelock, Sr. before he sold to Benjamin Townsend, or by the latter before he sold to the widow Dorothy Johnson.

Early in the summer of 1722 Samuel and his family left the Countyy Road for the Crosby place at the falls. The move was a profitable one from every angle, spiritual as well as material. The new property consisted of, "House Lot No. 26 and seventy three acres with a dwelling house standing on it, a fifteen acre town right for cutting of timber or feeding of cattle, one-half interest in a saw

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* Worcester Magazine, V. 2, p. 1.
** Old Times in Worcester by Elizabeth Ward, p. 15 and Worcester Magazine, V. 2, p. 26.
*** Worcester District Registry of Deeds, V. 4, p. 677.

mill standing upon Middle Meadow Brook and the land upon which the mill stands, also a whole right in the Shrewsbury Meeting House."*

To his regular farm work, Samuel now added a part time running of the saw mill but he was not alone. His son Samuel Jr. lived on the adjoining farm to the south, and at home his youngest son Daniel was now fifteen and well able to do a boyb share. With this help each day's work was done with order and profit, and Samuel Sr. was able to devote some time and much energy to his beloved church. Tradition says that "a fervent piety characterizes the Wheelock family."** Yes, some of the family but not all. Samuel Sr. was one of the fervently religious Wheelocks. "He was one of the founders, and one of the first Deacons of the Shrewsbury church"*** and is called Deacon Samuel Wheelock in the town records of 1727, 1730 and 1732. In 1735 Cyprian Keyes was chosen in his place as "Deacon Wheelock had been taken off by reason of infirmity and distraction."****

His son Gershom, however, was not one of the "fervently religious" Wheelocks. He never attained the dignified title of deacon; in fact we find no record of his having joined the church. Nevertheless he was one of the most important men of the town. He was a large land owner, a warrior, a whistler, and tradition says, he "possessed a gay and cheerful disposition."***** He was intensely interested in town and military affairs, and was instrumental in establishing the First Military Co. of Shrewsbury of which he was appointed Ensign.******

At home on the Country Road his wife Abigail (Flagg) Wheelock was no less busy. Besides the usual tasks done by women of those

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* Worcester District Registry of Deeds, V. 19, p. 219.
** Manuscript of Miss Priest in H. E. Hist. & Gen. Society.
*** Family Register by Andrew H. Ward. (1847)
**** Shrewsbury Church Records.
***** Old Times in Shrewsbury by Elizabeth Ward.
****** Family Register by Andrew H. Ward. (1847)

days, and the care of several small children, she found time to help with the work of the church which she joined in 1728. Her oldest daughter Abigail was then seven; the other children were Patience aged 5, Gershom 2, and Jonathan, a baby of a few months. This was our Jonathan. He was born September 18, 1727*, and like most children of that time was wealthy in relatives. Besides his own brothers and sisters he had 37 first cousins living nearby, all of whom were grandchildren of Deacon Samuel Wheelock.

These cousins were the children of Samuel and Huldah (Rice) Wheelock, of Ephraim and Martha (Wheelock) Pratt, of Israel and Elizabeth (Wheelock) Allen, of Ebenezer and Tamar (Wheelock) Keyes, of Eli and Mary (Wheelock) Keyes, of Cyrus and Lois (Wheelock) Wheeler, and of Daniel and Rachel (Wheelock) Willard. Their homes were all near Deacon Samuel's, excepting the Eli Keyes and the Israel Allens; the former lived in the Second Parish now Boylston and the latter in the south east part of Shrewsbury. It is delightful to record that the Israel Allen farm is still in the possession of that family. The present owner (1942) Charles E. Allen is a direct descendant of Israel and Elizabeth (Wheelock) Allen.

Gershom and Abigail Wheelock lived on their Country Road farm for twelve years, 1720 to 1732, In the latter year they sold the place to Richard Davenport** and moved to a new home about one mile north of the Meeting House.

The next eight years, 1732 to 1740, were busy and profitable ones for all the family. In the latter year, on Dec. 10, 1740, Deacon Samuel conveyed his 100 acre home farm "with all the edifices

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* Shrewsbury, V. S.
** Worcester District Registry of Deeds, V. 11, p. 95.

and buildings standing on the land, excepting one third part of the sawmill "to his son Daniel, a man of 32 and unmarried. In return Daniel was "to maintain Samuel and his wife Lydia in comfort and decency during their natural life."* That arrangement lasted for three years and then, on Jan. 2, 1744-45, Daniel Wheelock sold 60 acres of the farm with all the buildings" to Daniel Willard of Worcester.** And here we are right up against one of those "suppositions" that are difficult to solve and impossible to ignore. Was Daniel Willard a brother-in-law of Daniel Wheelock? Deacon Samuel's youngest daughter, born in 1714, was named Rachel. The Shrewsbury records throw no further light on this girl, but a "Rachel Wheelock of Worcester married Daniel Willard on March 2, 1743"*** and Ward adds "perhaps" the daughter of Deacon Samuel Wheelock. If so, it explains all those transactions relating to the care of Samuel and Lydia Wheelock which are so wordily recorded at the County Court House in Worcester. We have no proof that Rachel (Wheelock) Willard was their daughter but on buying the farm, Daniel Willard gave a mortgage to Daniel Wheelock as a guarantee that he would "maintain and care for Samuel and Lydia, the father and mother of the sd Daniel Wheelock during their natural life."**** Samuel was then 80 and Lydia 76 years of age. They needed a daughter's care. Rachel was the logical one to return to them as her husband was a "housewright" and builders were needed in Shrewsbury, whereas the other daughters were married to farmers who could not leave their land and stock. For one year the Willards "maintained" Samuel and Lydia Wheelock in the homestead by the falls.

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* Worcester District Registry of Deeds, V. 19, p. 222.
** ibid V. 18, p. 552.
*** Shrewsbury, V. 3.
**** Worcester District Registry of Deeds, V. 19, p. 226.

Then, on Nov. 28, 1745, they sold the place to John Baker* and the mortgage was recorded as "discharged Dec. 7, 1745." But they did not leave Shrewsbury, and Samuel and Lydia were still with them, for on the same day that they sold the home down by the falls, the Willards bought a farm on the Country Road, and, on Dec. 7, 1745, gave Daniel Wheelock another mortgage with the same guarantee "for the care and suitable maintenance of Samuel Wheelock and his wife Lydia."** The newly purchased farm consisted of 80 acres, 30 to the south of the Country Road and 50 with house and barns to the north. It lay just east of Middle Brook and west of Caleb Johnson's, which means that Samuel and Lydia were back on the Country Road in the house built by their son Gershom in 1720, and next door to the "whistling house" where they lived when they first came to Shrewsbury.

Samuel was 81 and Lydia 77 when they returned to the Country Road farm with Daniel and Rachel Willard. It is supposed that they died there sometime between Dec. 7, 1745 and Oct. 12, 1749, because on the former date a mortgage was placed on the farm to guarantee the care and support of Samuel and Lydia Wheelock, while on the latter date, when the farm was sold,*** there was no mention of that requirement.

No record has been found of their death and no stone marks their graves, but a tradition in the family says that "Deacon Samuel lived to a ripe old age and died in Shrewsbury."**** Their family record appears in the following table:

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* Worcester District Registry of Deeds, V. 21, p. 24.
** ibid V. 20, p. 460 .
*** ibid V. 28, p. 229.
**** Family Register by Andrew H. Ward.

Samuel Wheelock married Lydia Rice
b. Medfield Jan. 21, 1664/5 b. Sudbury June 4, 1668
d. Shrewsbury 1745-1749 d. Shrewsbury 1745-1749

Their children were:

Gershom b. 1692. married Abigail Flagg at Sudbury, Jan. 1, 1718-19
d. Shrewsbury March 16, 1770

Lydia b. married Richard Ward at Sudbury Jan. 1, 1718-19
d.

Samuel b. Marlboro May 14, 1696
married Huldah Rice, at Marlboro, Feb. 15, 1720
d. Shrewsbury April 8, 1756

Martha b. Marlboro Apr. 13, 1698
married Ephraim Pratt at Shrewsbury July 9, 1724
d.

Elizabeth b. Marlboro Apr. 10, 1700 married Israel Allen at Shrewsbury Feb. 14, 1728.
d.

Hannah b. Marlboro Jan. 23, 1701

Tamar b. Marlboro Mar. 2, 1703/4
married Ebenezer Keyes at Shrewsbury July 13, 1725
d.

Mary b. Marlboro June 5, 1706
married Eli Keyes at Shrewsbury Oct. 28, 1734
d.

Daniel b. Marlboro Aug. 10, 1708 bachelor
d. West Boylston 1756

Lois b. Marlboro Dec. 25, 1710
married Cyrus Wheeler at Shrewsbury May 1, 1746
d.

Rachel b. Marlboro Nov. 26, 1714
married Daniel Willard at Worcester Mar. 2, 1742
d. Shrewsbury March 18, 17(63)

Medfield, V.S.
Marlboro, V.S.
Sudbury, V.S.
Probate Records, Worcester, Mass.
Shrewsbury, V.S.

Looking back on those distant Wheelocks, one wonders why the name of Ralph was not given to some of the small Wheelock boys. Deacon Samuel had three sons and twenty-six grandsons. Not one bore the honored name of Ralph. This seems strange as Deacon Samuel was the grandson of the first Ralph. He knew that grandfather well. He lived near him until his twentieth year and he must have recognized the honorable position that his grandfather, Ralph the Pioneer, held in the town of Medfield. However, if our Shrewsbury family failed in this, other Wheelocks were more devoted to tradition. There were several Ralph Wheelocks in Massachusetts in the forepart of the 18th Century, perhaps the most notable of whom was Ralph of Mendon, the son of Eleazar and grandson of Ralph the Pioneer. Ralph Wheelock left Mendon, Massachusetts and settled in Windham, Connecticut, where he married Ruth Huntington of Norwich, Connecticut, and became one of the most prosperous farmers of Windham County. He was the father of Eleazer Wheelock the "Founder and first President of Dartmouth College."* The connection between Eleazer and Jonathan Wheelock is shown as follows:

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* Eleazar Wheelock by James Dow McCallum.

Chart showing descent of Eleazer and Jonathan Wheelock from their common ancestor Ralph Wheelock.

Ralph Wheelock married Rebecca
b. England — b. England
d. Medfield, Mass. Jan. 11, 1683-4 — d. Medfield, Mass. Jan. 1, 1680-1

Gershom Wheelock m. 1658 Hannah Stodder
b. England — b. England
d. Medfield, Mass. Nov. 28, 1684 — d.

Eleazar Wheelock m. Elizabeth
b. Medfield, Mass. May 3, 1654
d. Medfield, Mass. Mar. 24, 1730-1

Samuel Wheelock m. Lydia Rice
b. Medfield, Mass. Jan. 21, 1664-5 — b. Sudbury, Mass. June 4, 1668
d. Shrewsbury, Mass. between 1745-49 — d. Shrewsbury, Mass. between 1745-49

Ralph Wheelock m. Ruth Hunting-
b. — b. ton
d. — d.

Gershom Wheelock m. Abigail Flagg
b. 1692 — b. 1693
d. Shrewsbury, Mass. Mar. 16, 1770 — d. Shrewsbury, Mass. Oct. 17, 1762

Eleazar Wheelock
b. Windham Conn. Apr. 22, 1711
First President of Dartmouth College

Jonathan Wheelock m. Anna Drury
b. Shrewsbury, Mass. Sept. 18, 1727 — bap. Natick, Mass. May 11, 1735 (b.1733)
d. Cavendish, Vt. Oct. 21, 1798 — d. Cavendish, Vt. Oct. 4, 1802

Medfield, V.S.
Sudbury, V.S.
Shrewsbury, V.S.
"Eleazar Wheelock" by James Dow McCallum
Cavendish Vermont Town Records and Cemetery Inscriptions.

WHEELOCK HOUSE.

Built by Captain Gershom Wheelock 1733-4.

In 1732 the Gershom Wheelock family moved from the Country Road to their new farm situated about one mile north of the Meeting House. Their first purchase in that district consisted of a 70 and 1/2 acre tract known as Lot No. 23* but Gershom soon added to this by the purchase of a 100 acre lot "From John Keyes Esq. and Nahum Ward Esq."** This land was a part of the original Sewall Grant and was a short distance to the west of his home place. The following year he bought two small lots from Eleazer Rice, one of six and the other of two acres.*** The six acre tract adjoined the northwest line of Lot 23, and on its southern end Gershom built his house. It stands there to-day (1942) on the west side of the road, weathered by age but otherwise just as it came from his hands two hundred years ago. Down through the years the Wheelocks have bought and sold land in that district but that particular acreage lying along the present road to Boylston has been Wheelock property for 206 years, passing without a break from Gershom Wheelock's purchase in 1732 to Henry N. Wheelock's death in 1937. The present owner is Mr. Hiram Harlow of Shrewsbury.

The first break in this family came in 1745 when the oldest daughter, Abigail, married Daniel Potter and left Shrewsbury for her husband's home in Brookfield, Massachusetts.**** A few years later David, the oldest son, married Phoebe....and moved to his own farm in Shrewsbury. Gershom Jr. and our Jonathan were still at home. They were needed there as the farm carried much stock and their father was frequently called away on military duty.

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* Worcester District Registry of Deeds, V. 50, p. 287.
** ibid V. 6, p. 75.
*** ibid V. 24, p. 286.
**** Family Register by Andrew H. Ward.

To Jonathan that house on the road to the North Parish was the home he knew and loved as a child. He was but five when the family moved there from the Country Road, so any memories he had of the first house were blurred shadows, undecipherable and quickly erased, but the new homestead was a strong and vital haven, warm with life and love. It is not surprising, therefore, that when the time came for him to settle in his own house he selected a spot within hailing distance of the dooryard where he played as a child.

On September 18, 1748, Jonathan celebrated his twenty-first birthday. Three months later he purchased from Edward Goddard "for ten pounds....one certain tract of upland in Shrewsbury.... containing 6 acres."* That six acre upland tract adjoined his father's home farm at its southwest corner.

Two years later, on October 8, 1751, he bought 2 and a 1/4 acres from Silas Howe.** That lot was on the north east side of the home farm and is called "the Pine Hill Purchase" on Vashni Hemenway's map of the Wheelock property (1813).

Town records, then as now, limited their entries to short statements of events and dates, with no description of the persons nor of the lives they led, so we are particularly grateful to Colonel Job Cushing (1728-1808) who kept a tavern and store at Shrewsbury Center and whose account book*** throws a strong light on many of his customers. Colonel Job was a contemporary of Jonathan. He knew him well and had great faith in his honesty and industry, for the account book shows purchases, charged to Jonathan, and running for weeks, sometimes for months. The entry for June 18, 1753 reads:

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* Worcester District Registry of Deeds, V. 39, p. 91.
** Ibid V. 36, p. 92.
*** Account book of Colonel Job Cushing, in Shrewsbury Hist. Society.

"Jonathan Wheelock Dr. to
1 yd & 1/4 of shallcon at 22 shillings per yd.
1 stick of silk and hair
1/4 and 1/2 of buckram
10 buttons at 4 and sixpence
3 and 3/4 yds of black silk chalominese
at 15 shillings per yd."

Two days later he married Anna Drury, so we may safely assume that this material was to be made into a wedding coat. It must have been a seemly garment of black silk with shalloon revers, lined with buckram and with ten brave buttons down the front. Shalloon was a loosely woven twilled goods made in Chalons, France, and named after that city but sold over the counter in Shrewsbury as Shalloon. The "stick of silk and hair" was possibly used to make decorative loops opposite the buttons, as button holes were not in vogue until a later date.

Jonathan Wheelock and Anna Drury were married at Shrewsbury June 20, 1753.* She was the daughter of John and Anna (Gleason) Drury and a distant cousin of Jonathan.

The John Drury farm in Shrewsbury formed the western boundary of Captain Gershom Wheelock's 100 acre Sewall Lot. The two farms, Wheelock and Drury, lay there side by side, both carved from the original Sewall Grant but now united by those Wheelock and Drury kinsmen, for Captain Gershom Wheelock and Caleb Drury, the father of John, were first cousins. Their mothers were Lydia and Rachel Rice, daughters of Henry Rice of Framingham.** As we know, Lydia Rice married Deacon Samuel Wheelock and her sister Rachel married Thomas Drury of Framingham.***

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* Shrewsbury, V.3.
** Middlesex Co. Probate Records. Henry Rice's will, 1710.
*** Sudbury, V.3.

The Drurys were early settlers in Shrewsbury. In 1728 Caleb Drury bought 132 acres of land in Shrewsbury from Major John Keyes* but we have no record that he settled in the town. He was born in Framingham October 5, 1688, the son of Thomas and Rachel (Rice) Drury** and was married to Elizabeth Hames October 10, 1706.** Their children were:

Josiah	born	Sept. 17, 1707
Daniel	"	April 25, 1709
John	"	June 18, 1711
Caleb	"	May 22, 1713
Asenath	"	Jan. 11, 1714
Seuill	"	Jan. 11, 1715
Zedekiah	"	April 30, 1716
Ebenezer	"	Oct. 5, 1718
Joseph	"	Dec. 19, 1720
Elizabeth	"	July 30, 1721 **

Of these children Daniel and John settled in Shrewsbury, Joseph in Needham, and Zedekiah in Temple, N.H. Distance did not separate Zedekiah and Joseph from their Shrewsbury kin as later records will prove. Caleb Drury the father died in Framingham in 1733,** and the following year his "widow, Elizabeth Drury, sold land in Shrewsbury to Jonas Keyes."*** In 1749 "John Drury of Natick, cordwainer, bought land in Shrewsbury from Daniel Drury....sd land bounded on the east by Gershom Wheelock's land."**** Daniel and John were brothers and the latter was the father of Anna Drury who married Jonathan Wheelock.

We have no record of the first home of Jonathan and Anna Wheelock but it is believed that it stood on the "6 acre upland tract" which he bought from Edward Goddard in 1749. There was a cellar hole on that lot until some 15 years ago when it was levelled

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* Worcester District Registry of Deeds, V. 22, p. 28.
** History of Framingham by William Barry.
*** Worcester District Registry of Deeds, V. 8, p. 203.
**** ibid V. 31, p. 323.

off by its then owner. Tradition in the family says that "the cellar hole marked the site of a house built by some member of the Wheelock family."* That member must have been our Jonathan who owned the land until 1763 when he sold it to his brother, Gershom, Jr.** From that date until modern times the little six acre farm has been in the possession of Captain Gershom's descendants, who all lived either in the old Wheelock homestead or on Boylston Circle opposide Wheelock Road and not in the little house on the six acre Lot.

While the exact locality of his first home is Shrewsbury may be uncertain there is no ambiguity about Jonathans calling. He was a "husbandman" and as the years passed an expert in all its branches.

Returning to Colonel Job Cushing's Account Book we read:

"July 9, 1753, Jonathan Wheelock Dr.
1 pd of raisins and
2 biscakes at 5 shillings and sixpence.
3 pds of fish at 4 shillings
2 milk cans at 12 shillings
1 pr of neddles at 1 shilling"

This in our mind's eye shows us a row of milkers in the barn and cakes on the tea table. After several more purchases of muslin, lawn, allspice, onions and molasses all at a cost of a few shillings each, he suddenly pays his indebtedness, for the entry of July 13, 1753, reads "Reed of Jonathan Wheelock in labor 2 pounds 1 shilling", and in August of the same year "Reed of Jonathan Wheelock 6 pds of lamb at 1 shilling per pound", and again, a few days later, "Reed of Jonathan Wheelock in full in labor 3 pounds 3 and threpence."

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* Tradition handed down by Luke Morgan Wheelock. (1814-1880)
** Manuscript in possession of Mr. Hiram Harlow, Shrewsbury.

As the months passed we get further light on the work done on the farm from Colonel Job's account book. In December 1753 the entry reads "Recd of Jonathan Wheelock 16 and 1/4 pounds of beef at 12 pence per pd." and again "Recd in ox work and a horse 8 pounds."

The same year, 1753, Jonathan and his brother-in-law, John Drury "cordwainer", bought a large acreage in a new and unsettled section of Worcester County. The record reads:

"On Sept 27th 1753 Caleb Dana of Cambridge, Middlesex Co. Mass., Joseph Wilder Ju. of Lancaster and John Chandler of Worcester acting as agents for the owners and Proprietors of a new town in the Co. of Worcester called Royalshire....for 5 shillings to us paid by John Drury Cordwainer and Jonathan Wheelock husbandman both of Shrewsbury....do give unto the sd John Drury and Jonathan Wheelock....400 acres in the west part of the new town of Royalshire...."*

This must have been a real estate venture which fortunately turned out well, for a few months later they sold 100 acres of that Royalshire land to Joseph Bush** at a fair profit and in 1762 the remaining 300 acres went to "Samuel Haws of Wrantham in Suffolk Co." for 100 pounds.*** As the whole acreage cost them 5 shillings they were probably well satisfied.

Captain Gershom, meanwhile, was giving most of his time and energy to military affairs. He had been commissioned captain "of a military company in Shrewsbury", in 1742, and for several years served as such in a regiment commanded by Colonel Nahum Ward. He received his commission from Governor Shirley" on the thirteenth day of .... in the year 1742"**** and was probably one of those

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* Worcester District Registry of Deeds, V. 34, p. 89.
** " " " " " V. 40, p. 329.
*** " " " " " V. 121, p. 622.
**** Photostat of half of the original Commission in possession of the author.

western Massachusetts men who were "encouraged to scout and range on our western and eastern frontiers in quest of the enemy."* Knowing Captain Gershom as we do from records and tradition we feel that he needed little encouragement to drop all farm work for "scouting and ranging on the western frontier."

But he was the owner of several hundred productive acres in Shrewsbury and he believed in a future for the town. Therefore, he felt it was necessary that his sons remain at home and work the farm, while he ranged "in quest of the enemy." So he began to distribute his lands between his sons.

On June 14, 1754 he deeded "to my loving and dutiful son Jonathan Wheelock 34 acres of land in Shrewsbury."** It was the southern part of his 70 acre home farm and lay directly east of Jonathan's six acre lot on which the little house stood.

One month later he divided his 100 acre Sewall farm between his sons David and Gershom Jr. The former received the western half which lay next to John Drury's farm*** whose house is still standing (1942); while to Gershom Jr. he gave the eastern half which was nearer the Wheelock homestead.**** David was living on his land in 1752 and Gershom Jr. had a house on his in March 1754. In 1762 Gershom Jr. sold his farm in the Sewall Grant to his brother-in-law Luke Knowlton and returned to his father's home that he and his wife might care for his mother, whose life was drawing to a close.*****

Shortly after Jonathan received the 34 acres from his father,

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* Acts and Resolves of the Province of Massachusetts Bay. V. 13.
** Worcester District Registry of Deeds. V. 38, p. 180.
*** ibid V. 41, p. 289.
**** Manuscript in possession of Mr. Hiram Harlow, Shrewsbury.
***** Mr. Hiram Harlow.

he bought from Colonel Job Cushing "three and one quarter thousand of shingles at 13 pounds." They were probably used to fix up the little house.

His first son Jonathan Jr. was born February 25, 1754, and on that important day Colonel Job's account book lists Jonathan Wheelock as debtor for

"2 pds of sugar
2 pds of raisins
and 1 nutmeg"

In the next two years the account book shows "mackeral, salt, molasses, sugar, raisins, allspice, alum, copperas, printed linen, cambric, pins, pipes and pots" all charged to Jonathan and all paid with:

"labor at 12 shillings per day
300 byril hoops at £1.10.0.
3/4 of a pound of beeswax at 9 and sixpence.
Butter at 13 and 6.
400 hoops at 4.0.0.
1 small calf at 1.15.0."

On March 27, 1755 we read "Reed in full by a note of hand from Jonathan Wheelock £4.15.11." and on March 27, 1756 "Reed in full in labor £2.8.2."

The next few years were important ones for Jonathan; he was preparing to move and he had good practical reasons for so doing. The little house was too small for his growing family; a daughter Anna was born on March 23, 1756 and he wanted more land. Land near his own small acreage was either not for sale or in small lots at big prices. So, in 1762, he went up to the Rawson Grant which was situated in the northern part of the First Parish and there, in the next few years, he purchased the following tracts, all of them either in or near that Grant:

100 acres from Ebenezer Wadsworth July 23, 1762 for £118.0.0,*
38 acres from his brother Gershom Mar.15, 1763 for 85.0.0,**
5 acres from Phillip Munroe Mar. 17, 1763 for 4.0.0,***
12 acres from Phillip Munroe Aug. 20, 1764 for 25.0.0,****
108 acres from Ebenezer Wadsworth sometime between 1767 and 1770.*****

This gave him 263 acres in and to the east of the Rawson Grant, but he also had his little 45 acre farm south of his father's homestead, and another 50 acre lot acquired in 1759 from his brother David. However, the latter two holdings were both too far from the new farm to be included in its working so he sold them in 1762 and 1763. The smaller farm which adjoined his father's homestead went to his brother Gershom Jr., or rather he exchanged it for a 38 acre lot which Gershom owned east of the Rawson Grant (see above) and which laid east of Jonathan's new land. The exchange price was the same for both properties, £85.0.0, and the deeds were dated March 15, 1763 and March 17, 1763, respectively.****** The 50 acre lot bought from his brother David in 1759******* was the same 50 acres which Captain Gershom gave David in 1754, and was the westerly half of Captain Gershom's 100 acre Sewall farm. David and his family lived there from 1751, or earlier, to 1759, when saddened by the death of three of his four children he decided to leave Shrewsbury for a new home in Hardwick, Massachusetts, where he died in 1804. His estate was administered by Lemuel Harrington of Hardwick, and it is interesting to read that besides his home property he owned 100 acres in the town of Weston, Windsor County, Vermont.********

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* Worcester District Registry of Deeds, V. 52, p. 300.
** ibid V. 56, p. 374.
*** ibid V. 56, p. 375
**** ibid V. 56, p. 387
***** unrecorded
****** Worcester District Registry of Deeds, V. 56, p. 374 and deed in possession of Mr. Miram Harlow, Shrewsbury.
******* Worcester District Registry of Deeds, V. 56, p. 376.
******** Probate Records, Windsor County, Vermont. V. 4, p. 147.

These transactions show the strong sense of kinship that existed between the Wheelock brothers. The exchange between Jonathan and Gershom, Jr. was made to round out their respective farms and was done without thought of profit. The purchase of David's property was made by Jonathan to help his brother establish a new home in a distant town. On "Oct. 26, 1759 Jonathan Wheelock paid David Wheelock housewright" 193.0.0 for his home farm* and in 1762 he sold the place to David Palmer of Upton for 158.0.0.** We may assume that it was kinship and not profit that motivated the transaction.

In the autumn of 1762 Abigail (Flagg) Wheelock died and on May 19, 1764 Gershom married Elizabeth Rice the widow of Daniel Rice of Marlborough.***

Abigail (Flag) Wheelock was the daughter of Benjamin and Experience (Child) Flagg of Watertown, where she was born April 16, 1694-5.**** Later the family moved to Worcester, of which town Benjamin Flagg was an early proprietor.***** He died there May 3, 1741, but left no will. His estate was administered by his son Benjamin, and the inventory was taken by Daniel Haywood, John Chadwick and John Curtis,

> "....who do apprise the following things shown to us by Captain Benjamin Flagg Administrator":
>
> "The homested house and barne and 4 akers of medo and right in comon . . . . . £918..0..0
> ought land . . . . . 80..0..0
> bookes . . . . . 00..10.0
> bedes and beden . . . . . 4..0.0
> warmingpan . . . . . 00..8.0
> puter 0.14.0
> glas botles and woden botles . . . . . 0..3..0

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* Worcester District Registry of Deeds, V. 56, p. 376.
** ibid V. 48, p. 523
*** Shrewsbury, V.S.
**** History of Watertown by Henry Bond.
***** ibid

old bras kitel . . . . . 1..0.0
one fute wheal . . . . . 1..0.0
one tabel . . . . . 0..3..0
3 chars . . . . . 0..5..0
one brod ax 0.18.0
flax . . . . . 1..0.0
oxen . . . . . .29..0..0
one cow . . . . . 7..0..0
heifer . . . . . 5..0..0
one calf . . . . . 1..10.0
swine . . . . . 6..0..0
one plough 0.15.0
hay . . . . . .8..0..0
oats at 4 shilinges a bushel
indan corn att 7 shilinges a bushel
peas att 10 shilings a bushel
cyder att 6 shilings a barel
it is to be understod that the adminstreater is to bear the coast of getheren and seqren (probably securing) thes 4 last artkles

(signed) Daniel Heywood
John Chaddwk
John Curtis.

Benjamin Flagg adminstrator presented the foregoing and made oath that it contained a just and true inventory of the estate of his late father Benjamin Flagg."*

Another interesting record of that estate is here given in full as it proves that Abigail (Flagg) Wheelock was the daughter of Benjamin and Experience (Child) Flagg.

"April 25, 1744, Gershom Wheelock of Shrewsbury, gentlemen and Abigail Wheelock his wife and daughter of Benjamin Flagg late of Worcester....yeoman....deed. In consideration of seventy pounds old tenor Bills of sd Province to us in hand paid by our brother Benjamin Flagg of sd Worcester Esq. and oldest son of sd Deed. The sd Gershom and Abigail in consideration as aforesd. as also for the further consideration that the sd Benjamin Flagg hath taken upon himself to support and maintain his Hond mother Mrs Experience Flagg during her natural life so as that the sd Gershom and Abigail Wheelock nor their heirs or Admr be at any charge or cost towards ye same at

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* Worcester Probate Court Records, V. 2, p. 113.

any time hereafter....quit claim to him the sd Benjamin Flagg.... all our rights....to the estate....both real and personal whatsoever and wheresoever whereof our hond father the sd Benjamin Flagg decd died seized and possessed of as well as what they might now have a right to as also what they might have a right to at the death of the sd Experience the widow of the sd decd both real and personal.

Gershom Wheelock
Abigail Wheelock*

Luke Brown
Joseph Stevens."

Jonathan and his family moved up to the Rawson Grant district in 1762 and by 1764 were well settled on their new farm. The oldest child, Jonathan Jr., was then 10 years old and his sister, Anna, 8. There were also three younger children, Keruiah, Ebenezer, and Jotham.

Their house stood by a meadow just south of the line which separated the North from the South Parish. They were 2 miles from the church, school and store at Shrewsbury Center and 3 miles from the same necessities at the North Parish Village. The children of that section could not attend those distant schools, so, in 1764, "John Crawford, Asa Harris, Antipass Bouker, Philip Munroe, Joseph Bigelow, Charles Bigelow, Elijah Rice, Stephen Hastings, William Crawford, Levi Goodenow, and Jonathan Wheelock petitioned the town for permission to draw the money they paid in taxes for schools to provide one for their own district."** The petitioners according to a statement by Andrew H. Ward (1847) all: "...lived in or near the Leg." The Leg was that part of the original town of Shrewsbury which laid to the northwest of the Second Parish. It was amputated

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* Worcester District Registry of Deeds, V. 17, p. 515.
** History of Shrewsbury by Andrew H. Ward.

from Shrewsbury in 1768 and given to Lancaster. Neither Jonathan Wheelock nor any other signer of the above school petition lived in the Leg. Jonathan Wheelock, Phillip Munroe and Levi Goodenow lived in the northeast part of Shrewsbury's First Parish, the other signers lived in the southeast part of the Second Parish, now Boylston. The Town granted their request for a school so that problem was settled.

Although two miles from the church at Shrewsbury Center the family continued their membership in the Congregational Society there. From the church records we learn that Jonathan and his brother Gershom signed the Articles for church government in May 1762. Two years later Jonathan Wheelock and Jedediah Tucker were chosen by the church "to set the Psalms in public worship." In those days the Shrewsbury church used the Tate and Brady Hymnal, which has been criticised by musicians as lacking in dignified harmony,* but it suited the people of Shrewsbury who liked their hymns set to simple melodies in which they could all join, So they kept that metrical version for many years and later, in 1791, when they exchanged it for Dr. Watt's version, they did so with reluctance.

Those were years of great prosperity for the people of Shrewsbury. In both the North and South Parish, farms were righ and lush. They produced more "beef, pork, grain, butter and eggs"** than the local markets could absorb, so caravans were loaded with those commodities and sent down the Great Road to the waiting Boston markets.

Besides the things shipped to Boston, Jonathan sold many small items to the local store. However, we do not know what Jonathan bought or sold between the years 1756 and 1768, as one volume of the Colonial records is missing from the Shrewsbury Historical Society

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* English Hymns by Roundell Palmer, Earl of Selborne.
** History of Worcester County - Boylston by Peter Whitney, p. 311.(179

and that volume contained Colonel Job's account book for those years. But the record continues in 1769 with the following:

"Read of Jonathan Wheelock

April 13, 1769...1100 hogshead hoops...£1.13.0
Oct. 16, 1769.... 280 " " ... 0.8.0
May 14, 1770..... 9 and 1/2 pds of veal 0.1.10 and threepence
June 30, 1770.... 700 hogsheads hoops...0.18.8 3 far.
Aug. 30, 1771.... 4 pds of lamb.....0.0.9.2 farthings
Aug. 31, 1771.... 800 hogshead hoops....1.6.8."

Against which he bought:

"April 8, 1769		one iron kittle, one felt hat	£0.10.0
May 11	"	bushel salt and one gimlet	2.4
May 22	"	dr. to dressing 4 goat skins	3.6
May 22	"	2 sithes	11.4
July 7	"	1 firkin	1.10
Sept. 7	"	6 bunches (blank)	2.10.0
Oct. 5	"	6 qts rum 1 qt molasses	4.1.2f
Dec. 12	"	1 qt rum	1.2
June 7	1770	1 cracked grinstone	4.8
July 12	1773	1 gallon rum 1 pd sugar	3.0
		1/2 doz biscakes	4"

In those days

> "rum was an article of thoroughly good standing in New England, and a part of every mans diet, whether preacher or layman; as essential at church raisings and ordinations as on strictly secular occasions."*

But other things besides produce for the markets were passing up and down the roads between Boston, Worcester, and the numerous little villages along the way. In 1764 rumors and reports came

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*Artemas Ward, p. 11, by Charles Martyn.

to the farmers "of the growing power of that small group of wealthy, interrelated and socially exclusive families of Boston that virtually governed the Province."* Those rumors crept into every corner of the Commonwealth until civil war threatened.** The people were sharply divided. On one side were the wealthy classes, the Anglican clergy, the lawyers and judges, with the notable exception of Artemas Ward, and all those who sympathized with the English. On the other side, in general, were the merchants, farmers, artisans, non-Anglican clergy and a few members of the professions.*** The first group were called Tories; the second Patriots. Worcester County had a good share of both.

From 1769, on Shrewsbury was in the center of that storm. Artemas Ward, soon to become "the first Commander-in-chief of the American revolution"**** was a beloved leader of the Shrewsbury Patriots. Born in that town, the son of Colonel Nahum Ward, he was equally at home with the farmers of Shrewsbury and the Adams, Hancocks and Otis's*****of Boston.

The first Parish was also happy in another leader, the Rev. Joseph Sumner, beloved minister of the Congregational Church, "whose influence was always on the side of the colonists."****** But up in the North Parish affairs were different. There the minister was decidedly against the Patriots, as were John Crawford, Benjamin Fiske, Jotham Bush, Solomon Houghton, William Crawford,******* and several others in various parts of the town.

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* American Dictionary of Biography, V. 1, p. 96.
** Artemas Ward, p. 83, by Charles Martyn.
*** ibid p. 32.
**** Artemas Ward, by Charles Martyn.
***** Family Register, p. 281, by Andrew H. Ward.
****** Old Times in Shrewsbury, p. 88, by Elizabeth Ward.
******* Worcester Magazine, V. 2, p. 31 and
History of Shrewsbury, p. 204, by Andrew H. Ward.

"The people were soon involved in a most violent and malignant controversy....accompanied by the most envenomed attacks upon private character, which often divided families and neighbors."* Unfortunately some of Jonathan's neighbors were among these Tories. The Crawfords lived in the North Parish, not far from the Wheelock farm. Their children attended the same school. It was a most unhappy time for those divided neighbors.

As the tides of bitterness and dissension flung these people further and further apart, it became necessary for the Americans to have a safe place where they could meet to discuss and plan for their immediate needs and future welfare. They found two such havens in Shrewsbury, one at Colonel (Captain at that time) Job Cushing's store, the other at the Baldwin Tavern.

Colonel Job was a Patriot - an active one. From the men who met and talked around his counters he gathered a group of volunteers, whipped them into a Company, and later marched with them to Lexington. They are known in history as Captain Job Cushing's Company of Minute Men, from Shrewsbury's 1st Precinct.**

Over at the Baldwin Tavern other groups were meeting. Of one of these John Adams wrote in 1774:

> "I stopped one night at a tavern in Shrewsbury, about forty miles from Boston, and as I was cold and wet, I sat down at a good fire in the bar room to dry my great coat and saddle bags till a fire could be made in my chamber. There presently came in one after another, half a dozen, or half a score, substantial yeoman of the neighborhood

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* Worcester Magazine, V. 2, pp. 217-221.
** Massachusetts Soldiers and Sailors in the Revolution.

who, sitting down to the fire after lighting their pipes, began a lively conversation upon politics. As I believed I was unknown to all of them, I sat in total silence to hear them. One said 'The people of Boston are distracted.' Another answered 'No wonder the people of Boston are distracted, oppression will make wise men mad.'....After much more reasoning in this style, one said, 'Well it is high time for us to rebel....if we put it off....they will get a strong party among us and plague us a great deal more than they can now.'"*

But in some other sections of the town the Tories were equally vocal. The tides of hate and slander rose higher and higher. Finally committees were formed to examine "Ebenezer Morse, William Crawford, Jotham Bush, Benjamin Fisk (Fish; in other records), and Timothy Ross suspected of toryism,"** while John Crawford and Solomon Houghton were listed as political friends of Ebenezer Morse.***

Also "John Walker and David Bush both of Shrewsbury, in the County of Worcester were warned not to return to the State."****

The Committees found the first group "to be inimical to the country and dangerous persons to reside within the State." Ebenezer Morse was confined within the limits of his parish; he had "previously been dismissed in a summary manner from his pulpit by his parishoners."

William Crawford was disarmed and confined within the limits

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* Artemas Ward, p. 58, by Charles Martyn.
** Worcester Magazine, V. 2, p. 32.
*** History of Shrewsbury, p. 204, by Andrew H. Ward.
**** State of Massachusetts Banishment Act.

of his farm, but the others were allowed to take the Association Test.* The war was on. From Shrewsbury one hundred and twenty-eight "Minute Men" marched to Lexington. Among them was a Jonathan Wheelock who is listed as a member of Captain Ross Wyman's company of artillery. There were two Jonathan Wheelocks in Shrewsbury in April 1775, our Jonathan and his son Jonathan, Jr. Unfortunately the military lists give no information as to which of these Jonathans took part in that expedition. Perhaps some of Deacon Jonathan's descendants in the west may have family records that will decide this question. Until such proof is found we are placing Jonathan, Jr. in that artillery company, as it was composed mostly of young men and he was twenty-one at that time.

Among these Shrewsbury Minute Men, in addition to Jonathan, Jr., were Elnathan Allen, Cyrus Wheeler, Stephen Wheelock and Ephraim Pratt Jr., all four his cousins. Two were grandsons and the other two greatgrandsons of Deacon Samuel Wheelock. Their relationship is shown in the following:

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* Loyalists of Massachusetts, p. 139, by James H. Stark.

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, 1911.

Shrewsbury Minute Men

Responding to the Lexington Alarm

April 19, 1775.

Descendants of

Deacon Samuel Wheelock

Samuel Wheelock....m. ....Lydia Rice

Israel Allen
b
Dec. 20, 1705
d

m Elizabeth Wheelock
b Marlboro
April 10, 1700
d

Elnathan Allen
b Shrewsbury
Nov. 18, 1728
d Shrewsbury
Oct. 2, 1805

m Thankful Hastings
b

d Shrewsbury
March 29, 1807

Marched to Lexington
April 19, 1775
Capt. Ross Wyman's Company

Cyrus Wheeler
b Marlboro
Nov. 7, 1717
d Shrewsbury
Feb. 19, 1782

m

Artemas Wheeler
b Shrewsbury
Dec. 5, 1748
d Bridport, Vt.
Dec. 12, 1810

m

Marched to Lexington
April 19, 1775
Capt. Job Cushing's Company

Lois Wheelock
b Marlboro
Dec. 25, 1710
d Shrewsbury
April 13, 1799

Lucretia Howe
b Shrewsbury
June 10, 1756
d

Gershom Wheelock
b 1692
d Shrewsbury
March 16, 1770

m Abigail Flagg
b 1693
d Shrewsbury
Oct. 17,1762

Jonathan Wheelock
b Shrewsbury
Sept. 18, 1727
d Cavendish, Vt.
Oct. 21, 1798

m Anna Drury
b Natick
May 4, 1733
d Cavendish, Vt.
Oct. 4, 1802

Jonathan Wheelock
b Shrewsbury
Feb. 25, 1754
d Cavendish, Vt.
Aug. 13, 1842

m Eunice
b

d Cavendish, Vt.
Feb. 25, 1838

Marched to Lexington
April 19, 1775.
Capt. Ross Wyman's Company.

Samuel Wheelock
b Marlboro
May 14, 1696
d Shrewsbury
1756

m

Nahor Wheelock
b Shrewsbury
Nov. 6, 1721
d

m

Stephen Wheelock
b Shrewsbury
Feb. 22, 1751
d

m

Marched to Lexington
April 19, 1775
Capt. Job Cushing's Company.

Huldah Rice
b

d

Abigail Williams
b

d

Lucretia Newton
b Shrewsbury
Feb. 4, 1756
d

Ephraim Pratt
b Shrewsbury
Nov. 30, 1704
d Shutesbury
May 1804

m

Martha Wheelock
b Marlboro
April 13, 1698
d

Ephraim Pratt
b Shrewsbury

d

m

Abial Leland
b

d

Ephraim Pratt Jr.
b Shrewsbury
Jan. 19, 1757

m

Rebecca Goodenow
b

Marched to Lexington
April 19, 1775
Capt. Ross Wyman's Company.

PERMANENT
SOUTHWORTH CO.
100% COTTON RAGS

Seven months later, on November 20, 1775, Jonathan sold his farm to Ebenezer Mann and with his family went north to Peterboro, New Hampshire. In Shrewsbury they had a productive farm, a good home, many Wheelock and Drury relatives, several congenial friends and neighbors and a beloved church. Why did they leave it all?

Their farm cared for cows, horses, oxen, sheep, goats, bees and chickens. It raised grain, hay and vegetables. Some of this produce went to the Boston markets, and some was traded locally. Their crops were valuable and easily converted into money or traded for daily necessities.

2048997

Their home was the usual unpretentious farm house of those days. The present house, standing on or near the site of Jonathan's old home, and now owned by Mr. Jacobson, was built about 1810.

There were numerous Wheelock and Drury relatives in the town at that period, but of Jonathan's and Anna's immediate family few were then living, as Anna's mother and Jonathan's father and mother were dead.

Anna Drury, the mother of Anna Wheelock, died Nov. 6, 1766.* She was Anna Gleason, born May 3, 1713, the daughter of Captain John and Abigail Gleason of Framingham.** In 1733 she married John Drury, then of Framingham,** but later of Natick, where their children were born.*** Tradition in the family has much to say about Captain John Gleason. His memory was revered by his children and grandchildren. He died in Framingham May 9, 1740,** and thirty-four years later, in 1774, his granddaughter Anna (Drury) Wheelock named her youngest son, John Gleason Wheelock.

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* Drury Death Book, N. E. Historical & Genealogical Register, 1911.
** History of Framingham, by William Barry.
*** Natick, Church Records.

John Drury, the father of Anna Wheelock, left Shrewsbury shortly after the death of his wife and in 1767 married, at Southborough, the widow, Thankful Horn.* Thankful Drury died in 1770 and John married again in 1771. His third wife was Abigail Rolf of Concord.** John and Abigail then returned to Shrewsbury where she joined the church in 1772, "from that in Concord."** John died in Shrewsbury sometime between 1780 and 1784, as, on August 28, 1780, "John Drury, yeoman, of Shrewsbury....conveys....to my son John Drury Jun. of sd Shrewsbury, gentleman....all those tracts which I now possess in Shrewsbury,"*** while on March 1, 1784, when "John Drury, gentleman, buys land in Shrewsbury" he is no longer listed as "John Jun."****

John Drury, "gentleman", the brother of Anna Wheelock, was an officer in the Revolution and is called in the records "Captain John." He left Shrewsbury shortly before 1790 and settled in Franconia, N.h., where he died May 23, 1808 in the 73rd year of his age."*****

As we know, Jonathan Wheelock's mother died in 1762. His father died March 16, 1770.****** Captain Gershom's will written January 12, 1770 gave:

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* Southborough, V.S.
** Shrewsbury, Church Records.
*** Worcester District Registry of Deeds, V. 85, p. 239.
**** ibid V. 91, p. 221.
***** N. E. Historical and Genealogical Register, V. 83, p. 254.
****** Shrewsbury, V. S.

"unto Elizabeth, my well beloved wife, in lieu of her right of dower all that Estate which she brought to me at marriage and in case she survive me, I give her 4 pounds to be paid her by my executor at the time she moves out of my Mantion house. I give to my son David Wheelock 4 pounds to be paid him by my executor in 2 years after my decease. I give to my son Jonathan Wheelock 4 pounds to be paid him by my executor in 2 years after my death. I give to my daughter Abigail Potter, one bed with ye beding that was her mothers with all ye Pewter that shall be in the house at my decease - which was her mothers. I give unto my son Gershom Wheelock..... all the remainder of my estate both real and personal provided he pay my debts and ye legacies aforesaid and decently bury me after my decease. And I do appoint my son Gershom my sole executor."

(Signed)

"Gershom Wheelock"

"Edward Flint
Caleb Drury
Artemas Ward"

"Worcester, April 9, 1770 Artemas Ward Esq and Caleb Drury two of ye witnesses to the foregoing will appeared and made oath that they saw Gershom Wheelock, the Testator, sign, and heard him publicly pronounce the within instrument to be his last will."*

It is interesting to know that the witnesses to Captain Gershom's will were, first, Edward Flint, the beloved local doctor and army surgeon and the ancestor of the well known physicans, John and Austin Flint, of Boston and New York, second, Artemas Ward, the celebrated Major-General of the Revolution, and, third, Caleb Drury his cousin, and near neighbor, all three of Shrewsbury.

After the death of Captain Gershom, his son, bearing his father's name, became the owner of the homestead on the North Parish Road. In 1757 he married Susanna, daughter of Deacon Ezekiel Knowlton.** Their oldest son, Asa, served in the Revolution as a member of Captain John Maynard's Company in Colonel Job Cushing's Regiment.*** Asa Wheelock married Lucy Maynard in 1788** and

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* Worcester Probate Records, V. 11, p. 147.
** Family Register by Andrew H. Ward.
*** Massachusetts Soldiers and Sailors in the Revolution.

shortly after they left Shrewsbury for a new home in Wardsboro, Vermont. Gershom's daughters, Susanna and Abigail, married Barlow Carpenter and Daniel Harris respectively, and with their husbands also settled in Wardsboro.* The third daughter, Elizabeth, married John Rice and later removed to Dover ., Vermont. The fourth daughter, Martha, never married. She had a small farm of her own just east of the farm her father once owned in the Sewall Grant. But there was still one son left at home, named Gershom, whose descendants continued at the old homestead until 1937.

When Jonathan sold his farm to Ebenezer Mann of Lancaster, the deed called for:

> "one certain tract of land in Shrewsbury containing 220 acres with a dwelling house and barn....Bounded as follows. Beginning at the corner of sd Wheelock and Ebenezer Cutler's land....then south by sd Cutler's land....then by a way leading to the meeting house.... then turning east....then north to a spring of water ....then to a way....then by Ross Wyman's land.... then by Captain Joseph Biglo and Job Cushing's land ....then north to the N.W. line of the farm called Rosins farm.
>
> November 20, 1775
> (Signed) Jonathan Wheelock
> Anna Wheelock**
>
> Stephen Parker
> Ebenezer Wheelock

The 220 acres conveyed to Ebenezer Mann by this deed did not include the 38 acres Jonathan bought from his brother Gershom in 1763, nor the 5 acres from Phillip Munroe in 1765, These two tracts (the 38 and the 5 acres) were east of the main property and no record has been found of their sale by Jonathan.

We do not know the exact time when the family left Shrewsbury. According to Ward "the parents with their seven children removed to Peterboro, N.h., in 1775."*** On this evidence they must have gone

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* Family Register by Andrew H. Ward.
** Worcester District Registry of Deeds, V. 139, p. 170.
*** Family Register by Andrew H. Ward.

in late November or December of that year, as on November 20, 1775, Jonathan Wheelock is called "of Shrewsbury."* Also if they went to Peterborough at that time their oldest son was not with them, as in December 1775, Jonathan Wheelock Jr. was lying desperately sick of smallpox in Arnold's camp near Quebec."*

With the farm sold, several busy days were spent packing up the articles that were to be taken with them, and disposing of the rest. Then Jonathan and Anna began the long ride northward to their new home in Peterborough, New Hampshire. With them were their six children, Anna aged 19, Jeruiah 17, Ebenezer 15, Jotham 12, Joseph Drury 5, and John Gleason 1 year and 9 months old.

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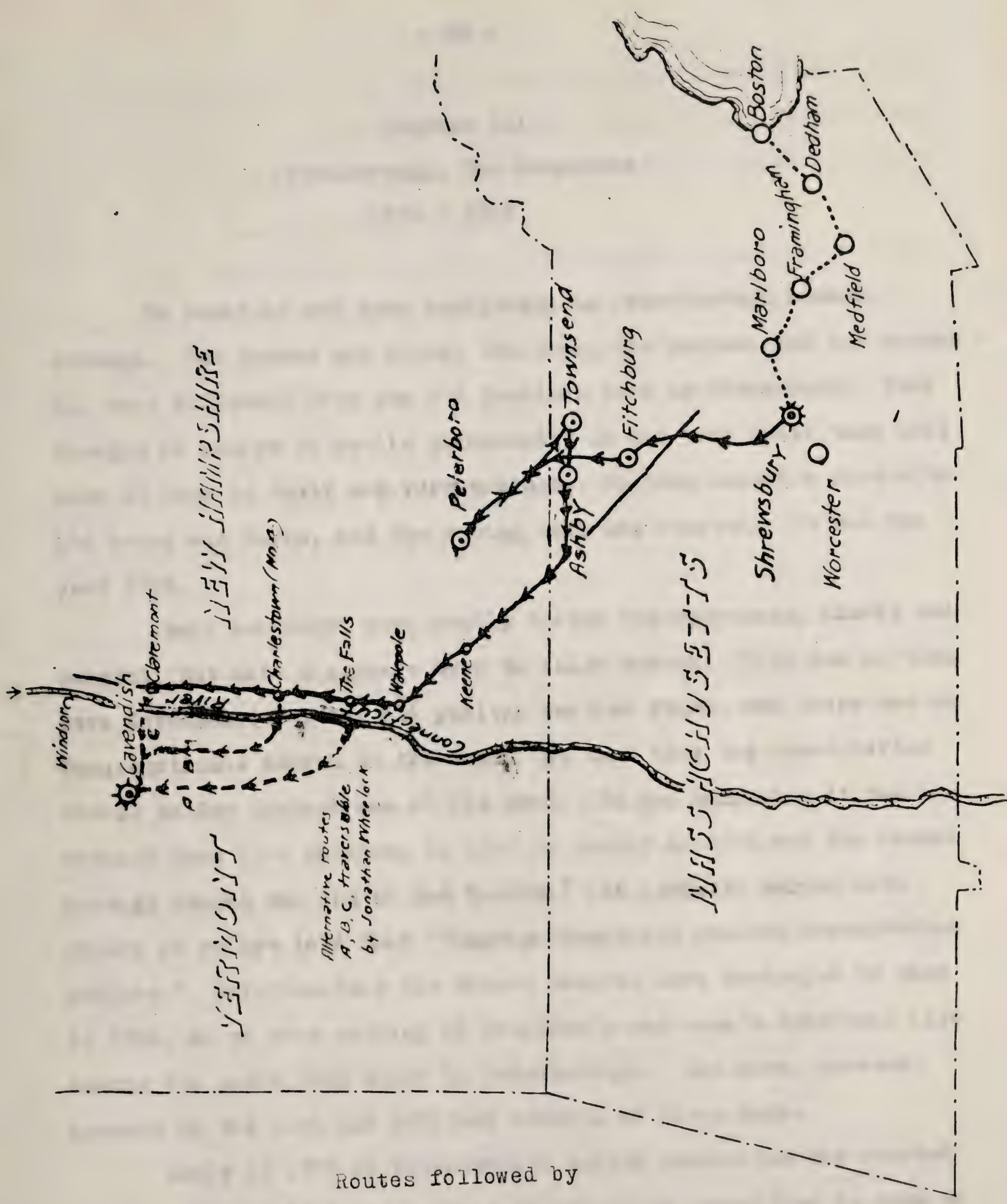
* Worcester District Registry of Deeds, V. 139, p. 170.
**U. S. National Archives Pension Bureau, Washington, D. C.



Routes followed by

Jonathan Wheelock

between

Shrewsbury, Mass. and Cavendish, Vt.

Chapter III

Peterborough, New Hampshire

1775 - 1779

To Jonathan and Anna everything in Peterborough seemed strange. The houses and farms, the town, the people, and the church - all were different from the old familiar life in Shrewsbury. They thought it unwise to settle permanently in the town until they felt more at home in their new surroundings. So they rented a farm with its house and barns, and the spring work was started. It was the year 1776.

Their neighbors were mostly Scotch Presbyterians, kindly and helpful, but with a strange burr to their speech. Very few of them were descendants of the old puritan English stock, and there was no Congregational church in the town. At that time the Presbyterian church in New England was at its apex. In New Hampshire it had increased from five churches in 1760 to twenty in 1774 and the Peterborough church was one of the twenty.* It probably served both groups as we are told that "Congregationalists admired Presbyterian methods." Unfortunately the church records were destroyed by fire in 1791, so we know nothing of Jonathan's and Anna's spiritual life during the years they spent in Peterborough. His name, however, appears on the town and military records of those days.

Early in 1775 an organization called Associates was started in the colonies "for the purpose of promoting opposition by arms to England's aggression."** The Associates were governed by committees

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* American Church History Series, V. 6, p.p. 48, 49.
** Loyalists in the American Revolution, p. 76, by C. H. Van Tyne.

whose primary object was to obtain the signature of every man in the colonies to a paper called the Association Test. These papers, when signed, were practically militia rolls* which bound the men to serve their country when and where called.

Every town and district had its Committee of Associates also called Committee of Safety to which the Continental Congress early gave its approval.** On June 17, 1776 eighty-four Peterborough men signed the Test among whom was Jonathan "Whellock"***(Wheelock).

During the summer and autumn of 1776 the family were all together in the new home. Jonathan Jr. returned from Canada in June.**** He was weak and scarred from illness, had lost the sight of one eye, and for weeks could do no work on the farm. However his younger brothers, Ebenezer and Jotham, aged 16 and 13, respectively, did their share, while his sisters, Anna 20 and Zeruiah 18, assisted their mother in the care of the house and the two small boys; Joseph Drury was then 6 and John Gleason 2 years old.

As the summer passed the garden showed long rows of Indian corn, peas, pumpkins, (then called pompians) and perhaps potatoes. The farm was proving its worth and the house was becoming a home. They decided to buy the property. The deed, signed July 17, 1776, reads as follows:

> "I John Taggart of Sliptown, Hillsborough Co. N. H. for 200 pounds to me paid by Jonathan Wheelock of Peterborough, N.H....do give, grant....unto the sd Jonathan Wheelock....all that certain farm with all the buildings thereon....lying in Peterborough.... bounded as follows: westerly on the highway or street leading from William Robb's to Hugh Gragg, northerly on Lot 99 now in possession of sd Hugh Gragg, easterly on the highway leading from David Steeles to the north

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* Loyalists in the American Revolution, p. 76, by C. H. Van Tyne.
** ibid. p. 76, " " "
*** New Hampshire State Papers, Revolutionary Rolls, V. XXX, p. III.
**** Dictionary of American Biography, V. 1, p. 363. and March to Quebec by Kenneth Roberts.

end of the town and southerly on the highway from sd Steeles to sd Robbes...Said farm being the premises I purchased from my honored father John Taggart and Samuel Cunningham and being the premises now in the possession of the sd Wheelock containing 130 acres,

James Houston
Isaac Mitchell

(signed) July 17, 1776
John Taggart.*

Perhaps this deed throws some light on Jonathan's selection of Peterborough for a new home. It reads "I, John Taggart of Sliptown, Hillsborough Co., N.H." Sliptown was the name given to the land lying southeast of Peterborough and in fact it was also called Peterborough Slip. But those names have long since disappeared. The Sliptown of John Taggart's deed is now known to us as the lovely town of Temple. One of it's leading citizens at that time was Zedekiah Drury, the brother of John and Daniel Drury of Shrewsbury, Massachusetts, and the uncle of Anna (Drury) Wheelock of Peterborough, New Hampshire. Zedekiah Drury was one of the early settlers of Temple. He was the town's first selectman and one of the twenty charter members of the town's first church.** Holding these positions it is safe to assume that he was well known to his fellow townsmen, one of whom was John Taggart. and it is possible that Zedekiah Drury was the one who brought John Taggart's farm to the attention of Jonathan Wheelock, his nephew by marriage.

From Peterborough to the village of Temple the distance as the bird flies is about six miles, but the usual New Hampshire mountain separates the towns, so that a much longer mileage had to be taken when Jonathan and Anna went visiting their Drury relatives.

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* Hillsborough County Registry of Deeds, V. 5, p. 5. Nashua, N.H.
** History of Temple, N.H. by Henry Ames Blood.

Temple has not forgotten her valiant pioneers. On the Common a monument has been erected in their honor and among the names inscribed is that of:

"Captain Zedekiah Drury.

First Selectman.

Served in the French War 1756-1760.

A man beloved by all."

The winter of 1777 saw the family comfortably settled in their new home but Jonathan Jr. with restored health, was again looking towards the army. In February he enlisted in the First Regiment of the New Hampshire Line.* That same year his father also served as a volunteer in the militia, but as the New Hampshire Revolutionary Rolls ignored the helpful terms senior and junior when describing the services of these men, much confusion might exist as to which one went to Ticonderoga, or Saratoga, or Rhode Island, were it not for the pension records at the National Archives in Washington. There we read that "on the 14th day of April, 1818 ....Jonathan Wheelock of Cavendish, in the State of Vermont..... aged 65....declared....that he enlisted in Peterborough, N. H. in February in the year of Our Lord 1777, in Captain William Scott's Company, Colonel Joseph Cilley's Regiment....being the First Regiment in the New Hampshire Line....and that he served for three years....and that he the said Jonathan continued to serve in the sd Corps until the expiration of sd term of three years when he was honorably discharged from the service at West Point, N.Y."** The Jonathan Wheelock who served for three years in the First Regiment of the New Hampshire Line was Jonathan Jr. as Jonathan Sr. died in 1798, twenty years before this soldier applied for a pension.

Jonathan Wheelock Sr. served as sergeant in the Peterborough militia in 1776.*** The following year, 1777, he joined Captain Alexander Robbe's Company in Lt. Colonel Heald's Regiment, and on June 29 marched from New Hampshire to reinforce the garrison at Ticonderoga. When they arrived at "No. 4", now Charlestown, N.H.,

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* U. S. National Archives, Pension Bureau, Washington, D. C.
** " " " " " " " " "
*** Peterborough Men in the Revolution, p. 112, by Jonathan Smith.

they received word from Castleton, Vermont, that Ticonderoga had fallen. Capt. Robbe's Company then returned to Rindge, N.H., was there disbanded, and Jonathan Sr. reached home July 3, having been gone five days for which he was paid £1.15.10.*

From July 3 until the latter part of September he was at home and working hard gathering his crops. Then in September 1777 came the call for volunteers to aid Gates and Arnold at Saratoga and on the 28th of that month a body of men marched from New Ipswich, New Hampshire, to Stillwater, near Saratoga, New York, where the American Army was encamped.** Jonathan Wheelock Sr. was one of those volunteers. He was a member of Captain Edmund Briant's Company, Colonel Daniel Moore's Regiment,*** and this time there was no turning back at "No. 4." The men went on to Bennington and from there to the encampment near Saratoga. His travel slip shows that he was paid 3 pence per mile from New Ipswich, N.H. to Bennington, Vermont, but there is no mention of pennies paid or promised for the travel expenses from Bennington to Saratoga. That he did go on to the battle field is proved by his return slip which reads "travel from Saratoga to home." Jonathan was discharged October 25, 1777, and was paid £6.19.0 for 28 days service plus an additional £2.10.5 for travel.**** It is interesting to know that Jonathan Sr. and Jr. both took part in this battle, the father as a volunteer and the son as a soldier of the Line.

That same year, 1777, Jonathan was appointed a member of Peterborough's Committee of Safety. With him on this important

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* N. H. State Papers Revolutionary Rolls, V. 15, p. 101.
** Decisive Battles of the World, p. 311, by Edward Shepherd Creasy.
*** N. H. State Papers, Revolutionary Rolls, V. 15, p. 357.
**** ibid

board were John White and Robert Grey.* The authority vested in such committees varied in the different colonies. In some of them "it was so absolute and the administration so despotic, that the Tories themselves were soon driven to take up the cry for liberty."** We find no record that the New Hampshire committees were in that class. In one respect, however, the powers given the committees were the same in all districts and that was their control of the Tory groups or persons in their community.

In 1778 Jonathan Sr. again enlisted, this time in Captain Samuel Cunningham's Company, Colonel Enoch Hale's Regiment of Volunteers, which marched from the State of New Hampshire in August and joined the Continental Army in Rhode Island.*** Captain Cunningham lived in Peterborough, and several of the men of his Company were from that town. Among the names listed on his pay roll we find:

William McNee	Sergt.
Charles Stuart	"
Charles White	Corpl.
Adam Gregg	Private
Jonathan Wheelock	"
John Blair	"
William McCoy	"
Isiah Taylor	"
James Cunningham	"
Michael Woodcock	"
John Morrison	"
Joseph Miller	"
John Gregg	"
James White	"
David White	"
Charles McCoy	"
Thomas Smith	"
Samuel Caldwell	"
John Taggart	"
Samuel Houston	"****

The above men enlisted August 10, were discharged August 28,

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* History of Peterborough by Jonathan Smith.
** The Loyalists in the American Revolution, p. 65, by C. H. Van Tyne
*** N. H. State Papers, Revolutionary Rolls, V. 15, p. 538.
**** ibid

and were paid for 21 days service, plus an additional allowance for "114 miles of travel out and home."* The home in this case was Peterborough.

In 1779 Jonathan Wheelock was chosen selectman for the town, but he did not serve the full term as on "July 15, of that year he sold his house and farm of 130 acres in Peterborough to Zedekiah Drury of Temple" and with his family moved to Townsend, Middlesex Co., Massachusetts.** The Zedekiah Drury who purchased the house and farm was the son of Uncle Zedekiah of Temple, N.H. who died "in 1777 in the service of his country."*** Zedekiah, the son, did not settle in Peterborough; he held the farm for a few months only selling it on Oct. 21, 1779 to Samuel Gordon.**** Jonathan and his family spent three and a half years in Peterborough, but those were war years, 1776-1779, and it is as soldiers of the Revolution that Jonathan Wheelock and his son Jonathan Jr. are remembered in the town. Their descendants may look with pride on these records, especially when they know that Jonathan Sr. was fifty years of age when he served as a volunteer at the battle of Saratoga and fifty-one when he marched with his Peterborough friends and neighbors to join General Sullivan 's army in Rhode Island. The revolutionary service of father and son are shown in the following table:

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* N. H. State Papers, Revolutionary Rolls, V. 15, p. 538.
** Hillsborough Co. N.H. Registry of Deeds, V. 74, p. 221.
*** History of Temple, N.H. p. 104, by Henry Ames Blood.
**** Miss Etta M. Smith, Peterborough, N. H.

Revolutionary Service

of

Deacon Jonathan Wheelock

1776
Served as "sargent in the Peterboro, N.H. Miliaty."

June 29, 1777
Enlisted in Capt. A. Robbe's Co. Marched to "No. 4", served 5 days.

Sept. 28, 1777
Enlisted in Capt. E. Briant's Co. Marched to Saratoga, served 28 days.

1777
A member of the Committee of Safety for Peterboro, N. H.

Aug. 1778
Enlisted in Capt. S. Cunningham's Co. Marched to Rhode Island, served 21 days.

Revolutionary Service

of

Jonathan Wheelock Jr.

April 19, 1775
Marched to Lexington.
Capt. Ross Wyman's Co.
of Artillery.

Sept. 19, 1775
Enlisted in Arnold's expedition, marched from Newburyport, Mass.

Nov. 8, 1775
Arrived opposite Quebec.

June 1776
Returned to Peterboro, N. H.

Feb. 1777
Enlisted in Capt. Wm. Scott's Co. Col. Joseph Cilley's First Regiment in the N. H. Line, for a term of 3 yrs.

Feb. 1780
Honorably discharged at West Point, N. Y.

July 9, 1780
Enlisted at Townsend for 6 months in the Continental Army.

N. H. Revolutionary Rolls
Massachusetts Soldiers and Sailors in the Revolution.
Pension Records, National Archives, Washington, D. C.

HOME OF JONATHAN WHEELOCK IN PETERBOROUGH, N.H. 1775 - 1779.

The genealogy of this farmhouse may be set forth thus:*

John Taggart to John Taggart Jr.	March 11, 1761
John Taggart to Jonathan Wheelock	July 17, 1776
Jonathan Wheelock to Zedekiah Drury	July 15, 1779**
Zedekiah Drury to Samuel Gordon	Oct. 21, 1779
Samuel Gordon to John Gordon	Oct. 16, 1812
John Gordon to (unknown)	-
John Steele to Ethan Hadley	Nov. 12, 1825
Conveyance to Samuel Weston not yet found	
Samuel Weston to Dalphon Osborne	Nov. 9, 1870
Dalphon Osborne to Milton E. Osborne	Apr. 11, 1883
Milton E. Osborne to Sarah Fulton	Jan. 20, 1900
Sarah Fulton by will to Eddy F. Fulton	
Eddy F. Fulton to Joseph A. and Elizabeth A. Morse	Oct. 21, 1912

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* Miss Etta M. Smith, Peterborough, N. H.
** Hillsborough County Registry of Deeds, Nashua, N.H. V. 74, p. 221.

Chaptor IV

TOWNSEND, MASSACHUSETTS

1779 - 1782

The Townsend farm was purchased July 15, 1779 the deed for which reads:

> "I, Relief Wallis of Townsend in the County of Middlesex Commonwealth of Massachusetts.... for the sum of 1750 pounds....to me paid by Jonathan Wheelock of Peterborough, New Hampshire....do give....unto the sd Jonathan one certain piece of land in Townsend....containing 90 acres....bounded by land of Antipass Bartlett, Captain Taylor and Asa Heald.
>
> (signed) the 15th day of July in the 4 year of the Independence of America
> Relief Wallis.*
>
> Zedekiah Drury
> Levi Gatchell.

We have no record of the exact locality of this farm, but it was probably in the northeastern section of the town, somewhere near Wallis Brook, where one or more of the Wallis farms were situated.

Again we see the name of Zedekiah Drury, which, coupled with his purchase of Jonathan's Peterborough farm, shows the interest and affection that existed between these two families. Fifteen miles stretched between their homes in Temple, N.H. and Townsend, Massachusetts, but visits were made when work and roads permitted.

This section of Middlesex County was not unknown to Jonathan Wheelock. He passed through it on his way to Peterborough in 1775, and again in 1776 when he returned to Shrewsbury for a short visit.

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* Middlesex Co. Mass. Land Records, V. 61, p. 437.

During this visit he paid two small bills which he owed. One to Dr. Edward Flint and the other to Colonel Job Cushing. In the account book of the former we read: "Jonathan Wheelock paid in full December 7, 1776."* Four days later Jonathan visited Colonel Job Cushing's store and the entry in Colonel Job's account book for that date reads: "December 11, 1776 received in full in cash from Jonathan Wheelock six shillings, eight pence two farthings."** Here we have at least two journeys made by Jonathan through Middlesex County in 1775 and 1776. Leisurely horseback trips they were which gave him time to see the country and meet the people. Furthermore there were at least two first cousins whose homes he might visit on the way, those of Zedekiah Drury at Temple and Timothy Wheelock at New Ipswich, both in New Hampshire. Timothy was the son of Samuel Wheelock Jr. and the grandson of Deacon Samuel of Shrewsbury, Massachusetts. Timothy Wheelock and Sarah Rand were married October 22, 1747 in Shrewsbury where their eight children were born.*** In 1768 they removed to New Ipswich, New Hampshire,**** which was about ten miles north of Townsend, so Jonathan and Anna had Shrewsbury kinsfolk near them when they settled in their new home.

With them in that home were their second daughter, Zeruiah, and their three youngest boys, Jotham, Joseph Drury and John Gleason. The other children were scattered.

In 1780 Jonathan Jr. enlisted for a term of six months as one of Townsend's men for the Continental Army. This time there is no doubt as to which of the Jonathans went to war. The record

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* Dr. Edward Flint's Account Book, in possession of Mr. Hiram Harlow, Shrewsbury, Massachusetts.

** Colonel Job Cushing's Account Book in Shrewsbury, Massachusetts Historical Society.

**** History of New Ipswich, N. H. by Frederick Kidder.

*** Shrewsbury, Mass. V. S.

reads: "Jonathan Wheelock also given Jonathan Jr., age 25 years, stature 5 ft. 8 in., complexion light, marched to camp July 9, 1780."*

Anna, their oldest daughter, was teaching school in the neighboring town of Ashby. She was then (1779) twenty-three years old. In Miss Priest's manuscript of the Drury family** it is stated that Anna (Drury) Wheelock the wife of Jonathan Wheelock was the Ashby school teacher but until further proof is found we are placing the daughter Anna in that position at Ashby.

Ebenezer the second son, aged 19 in 1779, probably remained in Peterborough, as on June 27, 1781 "Ebenezer Wheelock of Peterborough bought from

> Jotham Blanchard of Peterborough in the County of Hillsborough, State of New Hampshire....for sixty pounds....one certain Lot....containing 100 acres....it being Lot No. 1 at the southeast corner of sd. Peterborough.
>
> (signed) 27 of June 1781
> Jotham Blanchard***

James Cunningham
Peter Hall.

As Ebenezer was born on June 4, 1760, he was, at the time of this purchase, just 21 years of age.

In 1779 the farms and houses in Townsend were widely scattered, and there was but one village in the township. This was called Townsend Harbor or The Harbor, and was situated in the eastern section of the town. In those days the term Harbor was sometimes given to new settlements far from the sea coast and having no connection with nautical things. For those first settlers it meant a haven, a place of refuge, where they cast anchor and came

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* Massachusetts Soldiers and Sailors in the Revolution.
** The Drury Family by Miss Alice Priest in the New England Historical Society.
*** Hillsborough Co. N. H. Registry of Deeds, V. 9, p. 187.

to rest after the journey from their old homes. There were three villages called Harbors in that part of New England, namely, Mason Harbor and Dunstable Harbor in New Hampshire and Townsend Harbor in Massachusetts. In other parts of the country new settlements were sometimes called The Landing, but the symbolical reference was the same.

On January 1, 1781 Jonathan bought another parcel of land in Townsend, a small acreage adjoining his farm. The deed reads:

> "I, Daniel Taylor of Townsend, Middlesex Co. Massachusetts...for eight pounds to me paid by Jonathan Wheelock of Townsend....do give... unto the sd Jonathan....one certain piece of land in Townsend....it being the northwest corner of Antipass Bartlet's land. Then north on sd. Wheelock's land....then westerly to Taylor's land....containing eight acres.
> (signed) this 1 day of January in the fifth year of the Independence of America. Anno Domino 1781" Daniel Taylor.
>
> Hinchman Warren
> Esther Taylor.*

Life in the Townsend home seems to have been one of constant change. On December 2, 1780 Jotham, the third son of Jonathan and Anna, went to Lunenburg and enlisted in the army giving his age as eighteen years.** This was a slight exaggeration as he was but seventeen years and three months old when he was accepted as a soldier in the Continental Line.

The following day, December 3, Jonathan Jr. returned from the army with his honorable discharge, having then completed the six months service for which he volunteered.*** He did not remain at home however but settled in Raby, New Hampshire, just over the line from Townsend.

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* Middlesex Co. Massachusetts, Registry of Deeds, V. 66, p. 524.
** Massachusetts Soldiers and Sailors in the American Revolution.
*** ibid

On April 5, 1781 Zeruiah the second daughter of Jonathan and Anna Wheelock married Jonathan Connick, and for a short time lived in Raby, N.H.* At home with the parents were the two youngest boys Joseph Drury and John Gleason.

Jonathan Wheelock's connection with his church in Townsend seemed to have been a happy one. In 1782 he was appointed deacon of the "Orthodox Congregational Church"**, which had for its pastor the Rev. Samuel Dix. Mr. Dix did not confine his ministrations to Townsend but visited the neighboring districts which were "without benefit of clergy" and baptised, married, and buried those who needed his spiritual aid. His pastorate has been called "one of good feeling and concord."***

But Jonathan's connection with this church did not last long. He was looking at farms in the neighboring town to the west and his children were on the move. Early in the summer of 1781 Jonathan and Zeruiah Connick left Raby, N. H. and settled in Whiting, Addison Co., Vermont. Zeruiah was the first of this Wheelock family to settle in the Green Mountain State. In March 1782 Ebenezer Wheelock sold his Peterborough farm and joined his sister and brother-in-law in Whiting. Jonathan Wheelock II was still in Raby, N.H. but young Jotham was with the 6th Massachusetts Regiment in the service of his country.

In November 1782, Jonathan Wheelock sold his Townsend

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* Townsend, Massachusetts V. S.
** History of Townsend, Massachusetts, by Ithamar B. Sawtelle.
*** "Discourse of the Rev. G. H. Morse, acting Pastor of the church in Townsend."

farm and moved to the neighboring town of Ashby, Mass. There is no record of this sale on file at the Middlesex County Office of the Registry of Deeds.

Chapter V

Ashby, Massachusetts

1782 - 1789

Ashby was probably as well known to Jonathan as was Townsend. The distance from Townsend Harbor to the Tavern on Ashby Common was about eight miles. The new home was in District No. 6 just south of the Mason line and about five miles southeast of New Ipswich the home of his cousin Timothy Wheelock. Also somewhere in Ashby lived his daughter Anna, the school teacher, who probably moved, for a short time, to the new home of her parents. And of course with them were the two youngest boys.

The deed to the farm bought on November 20, 1782 reads:

> "I, John Emerson of Ashby in Middlesex Co. Massachusetts, cordwainer....for 300 pounds to me paid by Jonathan Wheelock of Townsend Gentleman....do give....unto the sd Jonathan one certain piece of land in Ashby....containing 70 acres....bounded by Matthew Esterbrook's and Eleazar Shattuck's lands.
>
> (signed) November 20, 1782
> John Emerson
> Catherine Emerson.*

One of the first things Jonathan did after his arrival was to join the church, then called the "First Society of Ashby", of which the Reverend Samuel Whitman was the pastor; but the spiritual life of Ashby under Mr. Whitman seems to have lacked the "good will and concord" that existed in Townsend during the pastorate of Mr. Dix. Jonathan's continuing interest and loyalty to his church

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* Middlesex Co. Massachusetts Land Records, V. 81, p. 436.

is shown at this time by his acceptance of membership on a committee appointed by the town to solve a difference then existing between some of the people and their minister. At a town meeting held February 5, 1783:

> "The inhabitants of the town....being regularly assembled in meeting....voted to endeavor to come to a settlement with Mr. Whitman and to see if he will take a dismission from his ministerial charge in this place....and chose Abijah Wyman, Jonathan Wheelock, Asa Kendall, Benjamin Adams, Jacob Damon, Jonathan Locke and Stephen Patch as a committee to confer with Mr. Whitman on the affair of his dismission from the people of this town."*

This was a difficult duty for Jonathan as he had been in Ashby only two months when he was chosen for this task. From the records it would seem that the committee failed in its "endeavor", as Mr. Whitman remained in Ashby until 1787 when "he was dismissed to the church in Goshen, Massachusetts."**

The first winter in Ashby saw the marriage of Jonathan's daughter Anna to Robert Upton of Amherst, New Hampshire. The ceremony was performed by the Reverend Samuel Whitman, so Anna was evidently not one of the townspeople who wanted Mr. Whitman's "dismission." Jonathan's family was now very small indeed, but they had many friends among their neighbors in District No. 6, one of whom was Jonathan Barrett, whose daughter Abigail went to school with the Wheelock boys and later became the wife of Jonathan's son Joseph.

Jonathan remained in Ashby for nine years. In 1789 he appears for the last time on the town records, in connection with the settlement of the boundaries of District No. 6. As the record gives

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* Ashby, Massachusetts Town Records.
** American Quarterly Register, V. 10.

the names of all those who resided or owned land in the District at that time, it is here given in full:

"Proceedings at the Town Meeting, March 3, 1789.
District No. 6, Ashby, Massachusetts.

Beginning at the corner of Major Stone's barn... then the County road up to the Mason line.... and the road by Esq Locke's up to Abel Hildreths' and the road from Captain Hodgman's down to Wilder's house....and the road by Eleazer Shattuck's to David Damon's....and the road from Deacon Wheelock's to the widow Emerson's and by the widow Edward's. 6 and 1/2 miles.

Residents or owners of farms in District No. 6 in 1789.

"Isaac Emerson	David Locke
Timothy Stone	Benj. Hodgman
Asa Walker	Jacob Upton
Jason Walker	Abel Hildreth
Jonathan Locke	Eleazer Shattuck
Samuel Marsh	Widow Emerson
Jonathan Barrett	Matthew Esterbrook
Jonathan Wheelock	Abraham Edwards
Eleazer Butterfield	Calvin Edwards

Zebulon Barrett." *

From the above we know that on March 3, 1789, Jonathan Wheelock was the owner of a house and farm in Ashby, Massachusetts, but it is doubtful that he was then living in Ashby as on March 10, 1789 he is on record as "a freeman in the town of Cavendish, Vermont."**

There is no record of the sale of his Ashby farm on file at the Middlesex Co. Registry of Deeds.

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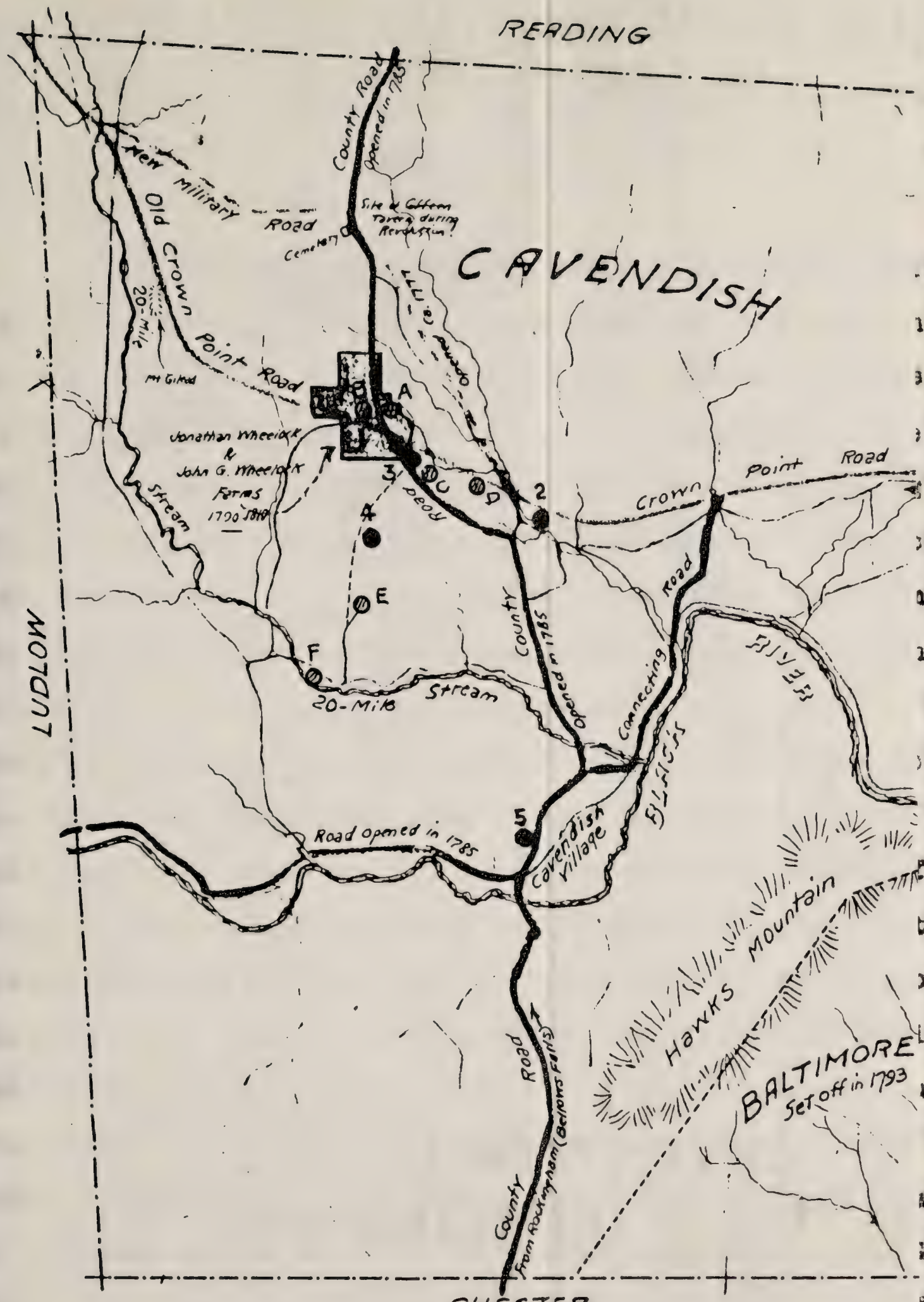
* Ashby, Mass. Town Records, V. 1, p. 288.
** Cavendish, Vt. Town Records, V. 1, p. 6.



Map of the

TOWN OF CAVENDISH, VERMONT

Showing the site of

JONATHAN WHEELOCK'S FARM

1790-1798

Authorities: Beer's Atlas of Windsor Co., Vt. 1869; Whitelaw's Map of Vt., 1796; Crary's Plan of Westersfield, 1791; Cavendish Town Records; Map by W. A. Grimes & Sources by W. J. W. 1942.

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READING

LUDLOW

WEATHERSFIELD

CHESTER

CAVENDISH

New Military Road

Old Crown Point Road

County Road Opened in 1785

Site of Gilfam Tavern during Revolution

Cemetery

20-Mile Stream

Mt. Gilead

Jonathan Wheelock & John G. Wheelock Farms 1790-1818

A

B

C

D

E

F

3rd Peak

Crown Point Road Opened in 1760

From Charlestown & Claremont

County Road Opened in 1785

Connecting Road

Road opened in 1785

Cavendish Village

5

Black River

Hawks Mountain

BALTIMORE Set off in 1793

County Road from Rockingham (Bellows Falls)

Map of the

TOWN OF CAVENDISH, VERMONT

Showing the site of

JONATHAN WHEELOCK'S FARM

1790-1798

Authorities: Beer's Atlas of Windsor Co., Vt., 1869; Whitelaw's Map of Vt., 1796; Crary's Plan of Westersfield, 1791; Cavendish Town Records; Maps by W. A. Gross; & Soames by W. J. H. 1942.

1. County Road entry.
2. Crown Pt. Road entry.
3. Westhersfield entry.
4. Jonathan Wheelock's destination, 1789-90.

Alternate Routes to Cavendish Open to Jonathan Wheelock in 1789-90

Scale 1½ inches to the mile

N

LEGEND

Roads in Jonathan Wheelock's time, opened in 1785.

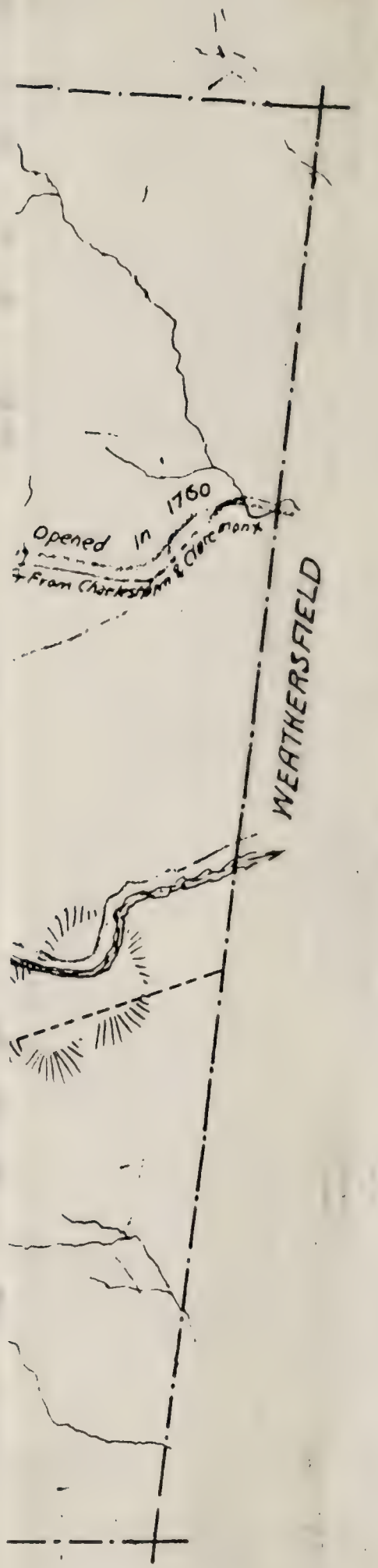
Roads added later (Crown Pt. Road), in disuse subsequent to ca. 1815).

1-Home farm of Jonathan & John G. Wheelock (now of Roy O. Heald et al).

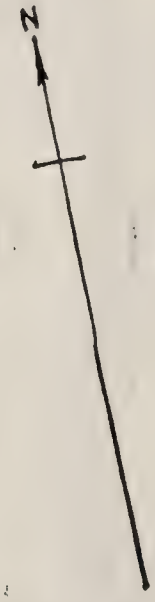
2-Grave of Jonathan Wheelock in the Morgan (Revolutionary) Cemetery.

4 & 3-Graves of Jonathan, Jr. & Jotham Wheelock, respectively.

5-Grave of Joseph Drury Wheelock in village cemetery.



Alternate Routes to Cavendish
Open to
Jonathan Wheelock
in
1789-90



Scale 1½ inches to the mile

LEGEND

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5- Grave of Joseph Drury Wheelock in village cemetery.

Chapter VI

Cavendish, Vermont

1789 - 1798

Early in the winter of 1789 Jonathan and Anna Wheelock with their two youngest sons, Joseph Drury and John Gleason, went up from Ashby, Mass. and joined a group of earlier settlers on the Cavendish hill. They probably went in January when the roads were well packed with snow, as travelling was better during the winter months than at any other season of the year. The route they followed was the well travelled highway which ran from Boston northwest across the Commonwealth to Ashburnham, a town lying five miles west of Ashby, and from there north to Walpole, N. H. where it joined the King's Highway,* the main north and south road along the Connecticut River. From the King's Highway they had a choice of three roads, each one of which branched off from it and passed through Cavendish on its way west. The first of these swung west at "the Falls", (later Bellow's Falls) crossed the river by a bridge, and then ran northwest through Rockingham and Chester, to Cavendish. This was a twenty-five mile run from "the Falls" over a rough road which in places was not much better than a bridle path.** The second turned west at Charlestown, crossed the river by ice or ferry and entered Cavendish by the Great Road. This was a twenty mile run from Charlestown over a fairly good road.*** The third branched off at West Claremont, crossed

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* Map of New England by LaRochefoucauld-Liancourt, 1795. Copy in Dartmouth College Library, Hanover, N. H.
** Map of Vermont by James Whitelaw. 1796.
*** Ibid

the river by ice or Sumner's Ferry, followed the new County Road through northern Weathersfield and then the Great Road up to the hills of Cavendish, a distance of eight miles from what is now Ascutney on the Connecticut River.*

When Jonathan and his family arrived in the town they put up at the Coffeen Tavern which he well remembered from his army days. He soon bought or leased "a certain piece of land in Cavendish" from Abijah Reed of Westford, Mass., but the deed to this transaction was not recorded so we do not know the acreage nor the date of purchase. However, it must have been in the early winter of 1789, as on March 10 of that year Jonathan took the freeman's oath and is listed as a resident of Cavendish.** This part of Vermont was not unknown to him and in the town he found several friends. Among them were Benjamin Adams, John Stone and his wife Ellice from Ashby, Mass., and the Smiths from Peterborough, N. H. Some members of his own family were also living in the state. His son Ebenezer and his daughter Zeruiah Connick were in Whiting and his wife's cousin, Ebenezer Drury, in Bridport, both in Addison County, while in Townsend, Windham County, lived his nephew Asa Wheelock and several nieces.

Ebenezer and Zeruiah frequently came to their father's home in Cavendish as the records prove, for their names appear as witnesses to several of Jonathan Wheelock's deeds. The first recorded one is here given in full as it proves his earlier but unrecorded purchase of land from Abijah Reed of Westford, Mass.:

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* Map of Vermont by James Whitelaw. 1796
** Cavendish Town Records, V. I, p. 6.

"I John Coffeen of Cavendish....for £30.0.0. to me paid by Jonathan Wheelock of Cavendish....do give unto the sd Jonathan one certain piece of land in Cavendish bounded as follows, beginning at a stake a few rods north of the southwest corner of sd Wheelock's land which he bought from Elijah Reed and runs then north 74 degrees west to the east line of the Kimball tract so called and then south 8 degrees west 95 rods to the first bounds to contain 100 acres. Jan. 11, 1790

(signed) John Coffeen.

Joseph D. Wheelock
David Sorls"*

To this first recorded purchase others were added until, as shown in the following Table, Jonathan owned 1038 acres of good Cavendish land all of which was in the northern district and adjacent to the County Road and the Grout Road:

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* Cavendish Land Records, V. 3, p. 97.

TABLE

Showing land purchased

by

Deacon Jonathan Wheelock

in

Cavendish, Vermont

Grantor	Date	Acres	Price	References
Abijah Reed of Westford, Mass.	?	?	?	V.3,p.97
John Coffeen of Cavendish,Vt.	Jan.11,1790	110	60.0.0.	V.3,p.97
John Jefts of Mason, N.H	Feb.20,1790	105**	200.0.0	V.4,p.99
Joseph Baldwin of Cavendish,Vt.	Ju. 28, 1790	50	20.0.0	V.3,p.70
Joseph Crary of Cavendish,Vt.	Nov.7,1791	16	8.0.0	V.3,p.58
Ibid	Dec. 7,1791	112	0.18.0	V.3,p.96
Abijah Reed of Westford,Mass.	Mar. 16,1792	110	92.0.0	V.4,p.255
John Pope of Walpole, N.H.	Aug. 19,1793	25	15.0.0	V.4,p.259
Moses Smith of Cavendish,Vt.	Dec.28,1793	50	60.0.0	V.4,p.258
John Coffeen of " "	Jan. 4,1794	65	40.0.0	V.4,p.256
John Minott of Chelmsford,Mass.	Aug. 29,1794	40	30.0.0	V.4,p.132
Ephraim & Phoebe Root of Marlborok Mass.	Oct. 3, 1795	200	110.0.0	V.4,p.260
Joel Wheeler of Cavendish,Vt.	Jan.12,1796	55	60.0.0	V.4,p.249
			£666.13.0	
John Pope of Walpole, N.H.	Ju. 20, 1796	40	$333.34	V.5,p.9
Leonard Proctor of Cavendish,Vt.	Nov.12,1796	60	137.	V.5,p.28
		1038	$470.34	

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* Cavendish, Vermont Land Records

** Same acreage re-conveyed to Jonathan Wheelock by Jeremiah Hildreth of Cavendish, Vt., Dec. 17, 1791, for £0.15.0 (V. 3, p. 69).

No mention is made in any of these deeds of a house or barns on the lands bought, but the 105 acres purchased from John Jefts of Mason, N.H. on Feb. 20, 1790, was called "the Farm" and that might have included buildings, especially as the price Jonathan paid for it was considerably more per acre than any of his other purchases. That particular farm also gave him more trouble than any of his other lands as, a few months after he bought the property, he discovered that it carried an unpaid tax from the days of its original proprietor, David Taylor. The tax was a small one, 12 shillings, but before Jonathan and Jefts could settle the matter Jonathan's land, with several other properties, was put up at a vendue sale and his was bought by Jeremiah Hildreth. Shortly after the sale Jonathan paid Hildreth the amount of the tax and in the deed which records the transaction the latter "quit claims to Jonathan Wheelock all his right to the 105 acres of land now in the possession of sd Wheelock."*

The vendue sale was held October 8, 1790, and the following proprietors were named as the "delinquent taxpayers" and not the then owners of the land:

Benning Wentworth
David Taylor
Jonathan Wetherbee
Benjamin Whitcomb
Samuel Reed Jr.
Thomas Muzzy
Josiah Bailey
James Emerson
Jonathan Willard and
Oliver Willard.**

The records show that between the years 1790 and 1796 Deacon Jonathan succeeded in settling four of his children on

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* Cavendish Land Records, V. 3, p. 69.
** Ibid., V. 3, p. 93.

their own farms in Cavendish. In the United States Census of 1790 we read that his household consisted of:

"4 free white males over 16
2 free white male under 16 and
2 free white females"

The four males were Deacon Jonathan, his sons Jotham and Joseph Drury Wheelock, and possibly a hired man. The son Jotham had recently come up from Lunenburg, Mass. and joined his family on the hill. The boy under 16 was Deacon Jonathan's youngest son, John Gleason Wheelock who was then 15 years and a few months old. The 2 females were Anna (Drury) Wheelock and her niece Prudence Drury.* In 1790 there were 87 families in Cavendish and over 200 children, but there was neither school nor church in the town and both were needed. In 1791 a petition was sent to the General Assembly of the State requesting permission to erect a school house in Cavendish "sd school house to be near the dwelling house of Deacon Jonathan Wheelock."** It is interesting to note that Jotham Wheelock was "the agent for the Petition."

As Deacon Jonathan was "one of the deeply religious Wheelocks" it was a matter of great concern to him that Cavendish was without a church or minister. This was partially remedied in 1792 when "the Rev. Abel Wood was hired by the town to come and preach to the people for a period of 6 months" and a general assessment was levied to pay his salary.

Early in the winter of 1791 Joseph Drury Wheelock went down to Ashby, Mass. and there married Abigail Barrett the daughter of Jonathan and Abigail (Raymond) Barrett of that town.*** Joseph and his wife settled in Cavendish on a fifty acre farm given to them

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* Windsor Co. Probate Records, V. 2.
** Vermont State Papers, V. XVIII.
***N. H. Hist. and Gen. Register, V. 42, p. 262.

by Deacon Jonathan "in consideration of the love and parental affection I do bear my true and loving son Joseph Drury Wheelock."*

In 1792 Robert and Anna (Wheelock) Upton with their three children came up from Salem, Mass. and settled in Cavendish. They also received a fifty acre farm from her father the consideration being the same "parental love and affection."**

On December 3, 1795, John Gleason Wheelock married Levina Clark the daughter of Deacon Gershom and Levina (Wright) Clark of Weathersfield, Vermont. John and Levina settled on Deacon Jonathan's home farm, one-half of which John purchased from his father for £250.0.0.***

Nine months later Deacon Jonathan sold to his son Jotham "150 acres of Cavendish land" for the nominal sum of £1.10.0. At the price it might be considered a gift although there is no mention "of love and parental affection" in the deed which was signed Oct. 17, 1796.****

The land given or sold to these three sons adjoined Deacon Jonathan's home farm. From his dooryard he could look across his mowing and see the homes of Joseph Drury to the southeast, Jotham directly south and John Gleason across the County Road to the west. But his daughter Anna's home could not be seen from the hill as it was down on Twenty Mile Stream where Robert Upton's home "farm, grist mill, saw mill and barns" were situated.***** A bridle path connected this part of the Stream with the Hill. It left the Stream just east of Robert Upton's house, ran north up the hill

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* Cavendish Land Records V. 4, p. 100.
** Ibid., V. 5, p. 8.
*** Ibid., V. 5, p. 216.
**** Ibid., V. 5, p. 48.
***** Ibid., V. 6, p. 438.

through his pasture and continued northeast through the present Sanders and Heald farms until it joined the County Road "just north of Jotham Wheelock's house." In 1804 this path was surveyed by Thomas Child and laid out as a town road.* It has long since been discontinued and should not be confused with the present town road which leaves the valley near the Gilchrist school house, runs north up the hill, and then east through the Heald farm to the County Road.

In January 1795 Deacon Jonathan went down to Shrewsbury, Mass. and visited his brother Gershom at the old Wheelock homestead. It was a pleasant reunion with some business transacted, as during the visit Jonathan sold to his brother the last of his Shrewsbury holdings. It was the two and a quarter acre lot known as The Pine Hill Pasture which he bought from Silas Howe in 1751,**but neither the records nor tradition tell us why he held on to that small lot for 44 years.

Perhaps it was on this trip that he stopped over in old Raby, N.H. and borrowed young Jonathan Wheelock 3rd, his seven year old grandson, to whom he referred in 1797 as "my grandson Jonathan Wheelock who now lives with me."*** Young Jonathan was the son of Jonathan Jr and Eunice Wheelock of Raby, now Brookline, N. H. Deacon Jonathan wanted this son and his family with him in Cavendish but Jonathan Jr was not quite ready, in 1795, to make the change, so he sent his son Jonathan 3rd to Cavendish in his place.

In December 1796 Deacon Jonathan returned to Shrewsbury

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* Cavendish Town Records, V. 2, p. 2.
** Worcester, Mass. District Registry of Deeds, V. 136, p. 161.
*** Windsor Co. Probate Records.

and again visited his brother Gershom. While there he called on Dr. Edward Flint whose account book shows that on "December 7, 1796 Jonathan Wheelock paid in full a small balance he owed for a couple of years." He remained in Shrewsbury all during December and was preparing for the trip home when he became desperately ill and for weeks lay at Gershom Wheelock's house where he was supplied with the necessary nursing and attendance."*

He recovered but it was late in the spring of 1797 before he was able to return to Vermont. His old vigor was gone. The farm that had been his pride was now a burden. During the summer he disposed of 176 acres - 50 to Amherst Wilder,** 53 to his son Joseph Drury** and 63 to his son-in-law Robert Upton.** But he was still the owner of a lot of property, both real and personal, which he decided could best be disposed of by will. This he drew up in early December and on the 16th of the month called in his friends Benjamin Adams, William Spaulding and Aaron Parker to witness his signature to the document. The winter of 1798 he spent at home. With him were his wife Anna and their grandson young Jonathan 3rd. Nearby were his daughter Anna, his sons Jotham, Joseph Drury and John Gleason and their families. His niece Prudence Drury was then married and living in Saltash with her husband John Brown. Early in the spring Jonathan Jr. and his family came up from Raby, N.H. and settled near his father's homestead. All his family were now in Vermont. Ebenezer and Keruiah came down from Whiting as frequently as their own farm work permitted. It was Deacon Jonathan's last summer with his family. He died

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* Windsor Co. Probate Records.
** Cavendish Land Records, V. 5, pp. 57, 130, 72.

October 21, 1798 and was buried in the old Morgan Cemetery in Cavendish, Vermont, where a plain blue slate stone bears this inscription:

In memory of
Deacon Jonathan Wheelock
who departed this life
in full faith of a glorious
immortality, Oct.21,1798
aged 71 years, 1 month.

Death is a debt by nature due
Which I have paid and so must you.

How loved how valued once avails thee not
To whom related or by whom begot
A heap of dirt alone remains for thee
Tis all thou are and all that we shall be.

After the death of Deacon Jonathan, his widow, Anna Wheelock, was not left alone in the homestead on Cavendish hill. Her son John G. and his family lived with her. This was the wish of Deacon Jonathan as in his will he left "one-half of his dwelling house, cellar and well" to his wife Anna and the other half to his son John G.

But Anna Wheelock did not long survive her husband. She died Oct. 4, 1802 and was buried beside him in the Morgan Cemetery where a plain blue slate stone bears this inscription:

In memory of

Mrs Anna Wheelock

wife of

Deacon Jon^{a} Wheelock

who died Oct.4,1802

in the 69 year of her age.

Here you can read and learn
How Christ the Son of God
Has undertook our great concern
Our ransom by His blood.

The foregoing records, drawn from the archives of the towns in which Jonathan Wheelock lived, paint for us a true portrait of the man. He stands in the foreground a dominant figure, with his family, farms and church in the background. They were the great interests of his life. He had no others.

To his family he gave deep affection, a comfortable home, such education as the country schools then provided, and an inheritance of good farm land. From them he demanded obedience and cooperation as was the custom in those patriarchal days.

To his farms he gave hard work, seasoned with a keen intelligence, which enabled him to draw profits from such by-products as bees, barrel hoops, cheese, goat skins, leather and maple sugar. He knew farm values and he recognized the profits that awaited those who sold their wellrun Massachusetts farms and bought up new land in pioneer regions. His farm life began in his 21st year with 6 acres; it ended in his 71st year with 1038 acres.

Jonathan was one of the deeply religious Wheelocks, blessed with a strong and enduring faith in God. To his Congregational Church he gave of himself freely, leading the services when the

members were without a minister, and leading the singing of the Psalms and hymns at all other times. He lived a good, strong, courageous life and "died in the full faith of a glorious immortality."*

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* Inscription on Tombstone of Deacon Jonathan Wheelock in Morgan Cemetery, Cavendish, Vermont.

Children of

Jonathan and Anna Wheelock.

Jonathan
b.Shrewsbury,Mass. Feb.25,1754
d.Cavendish, Vt. Aug.13,1842
married
Eunice
b. 1751
d.Cavendish,Vt. Feb.28,1838

Jotham
b.Shrewsbury,Mass. Aug.26,1763
d.Cavendish, Vt. Apr.27,1831
married Cavendish,Vt. Nov.11,1802
Relief Harris
b.
d.

Anna
b.Shrewsbury,Mass. Mar.23,1756
d.Salem,Mass. Feb.10,1835
married Ashby,Mass. Jan.16,1783
Robert Upton
b.Amherst, N.H. May 13,1758
d.Millbridge,Maine 1824

Joseph Drury
b.Shrewsbury,Mass. Nov. 3,1770
d.Plymouth, Vt. Oct.12,1858
married Ashby,Mass.
Abigail Barrett
b.Ashby,Mass. May 24,1774
d.Cavendish, Vt. Dec.12,1846

Zeruiah
b.Shrewsbury,Mass. Feb.12,1758
d.
married Townsend,Mass. Apr. 3,1781
Jonathan Connick
b.Townsend,Mass. Mar.21,1752
d.

John Gleason
b.Shrewsbury,Mass. Feb.10,1774
d.Bowmansville,N.Y. Sep.24,1855
married
Levina Clark
b.Lebanon,Conn. Feb.13,1777
d.Bowmansville,N.Y. Sep.13,1853

Ebenezer
b. Shrewsbury, Mass. June 4, 1760
d. Cornwall, Vt. Dec.3, 1837
married (1) Whiting,Vt. Aug.17,1786
Mrs. Olive Haws
b. 1757
d. Whiting,Vt. Oct. 2,1826
married (2) Whiting,Vt. Jan.14,1827
Mrs. Rebecca (Smith) Allen.

Shrewsbury, Mass. V.S.
Cavendish, Vt. V.S.
Ashby, Mass. V. S.
History of Amherst, N. H.
Townsend, Mass. Book of Births and Marriages.
N. E. Historical and Gen. Registry, V. 42, p. 262.
John G. Wheelock Family Bible.

Sketch of the Life of Deacon Jonathan Wheelock of Cavendish, Vermont 1727 - 1798

by

Gertrude Bernadette Wilgus

1942

P.73

Part of the "Ri
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Parish - Showing
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as then in existen

By Hiram

August 1942

55 · William Taylo
56 - Elisha Newton
57 - Elias Hayes
58. Thomas Hapg
59 - Lanzer, Brag
60 - Jedediah Tuck
61 - Ephraim Sm
62 - George Rush
63. Daniel Whit
64 - Jonathan Simmon
65 Daniel Hubbard - P
(Lot 27)
66 - Joseph Wiser

Wheelocks = ●
Drurys = ●

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Part of the First Parish in Shrewsbury, Massachusetts and Part of the Second Parish - Showing where early members of the Wheelock family and other early residents lived and roads thought to be then in existence

By Hiram Harlow

August 1942

1. "Whistling Hams"
2. Jonathan Wheelock House on County Road - D. Willard
3. Samuel Wheelock saw mill
4. Samuel Wheelock - Daniel Wheelock - D. Willard
5. Samuel Wheelock Jr.
6. Ephraim Pratt (Lot 44a)
7. Josiah Allen
8. Changes Keyes
9. Eli Keyes
10. Cyrus Wheeler
11. Capt Jonathan Wheelock - Wheelock Homestead - Lot 23
12. Jedediah Johnson
13. Jonathan Foster
14. Daniel Howe - Gideon Howe
15. Rev. Job Cushing
16. Major Job Cutler - John Keyes
17. Nahum Ward - Henry Baldwin's Tavern
18. Jonathan Wheelock Little House
19. Jonathan Wheelock Jr. - Luke Hamilton
20. Daniel Wheelock
21. Daniel Drury 1st residence
22. John Drury
23. Daniel Drury - Changes Drury (Lot 24)
24. Isaac Drury - Martha Wheelock
25. Caleb Drury - Joel Drury
26. Jonathan Flagg - Stephen Flagg (Lot 36)
27. Daniel Hastings - David Hastings (Lot 41)
28. Henry Keyes - Joshua Townsend (Lot 45)
29. Dr. Cyprian Keyes - Alvin Durkin (Lot 38)
30. Dea. Jonathan Keyes - Benjamin Keyes (Lot 28)
31. Silas Howe - Joseph Muzzy - (Lot 22 - granted Rev. Job Cushing)
32. Edward Goddard - Daniel Goddard
33. Amos Parker } (Lot 21 - Peter Smith)
34. John Rice }
35. Gen. Artemas Ward
36. Col. Job Cushing
37. Dr. Joseph Curtiss
38. Dr. Edward Flint
39. Dr. Samuel Cressy (Lot 10)
40. John Wheeler - Elijah Reamon
41. Jonathan Wheelock - Mann Farm
42. Jonathan Cutler
43. John Crawford
44. Antipas Bowles (Lot 17) Benjamin Fiske
45. Ted Harris (Lot 42 - Dea. John Keyes)
46. Asahel Munroe
47. Joseph Rigelow (Lot 14)
48. Stephen Hastings
49. Levi Goodenow (Lot 19 - James Keyes)
50. Charles Rigelow (Lot 20 - Richard Lee)
51. Elijah Rice
52. Rev. Changes Morse
53. Jotham Bush (Lot 39 - John Bush)
54. Reese Wyman
55. William Taylor
56. Elisha Newton
57. Elias Keyes
58. Thomas Hapgood
59. Changes Brazer
60. Jedediah Tucker
61. Ephraim Smith
62. George Bush
63. Daniel Whitney
64. Jonathan Sumner of Northboro
65. Daniel Hubbard - Phinehas Haywood (Lot 27)
66. Joseph Wiser

Wheelocks = ●

Drurys = ●

—— : Town roads

~~~ : Brooks

..... : Present town line of Shrewsbury - Boylston, West Boylston

—·—·— Lines of early grants

Lot 1, etc. : Lot granted to Shrewsbury Proprietors

Scale 1½ Inches = 1 Mile

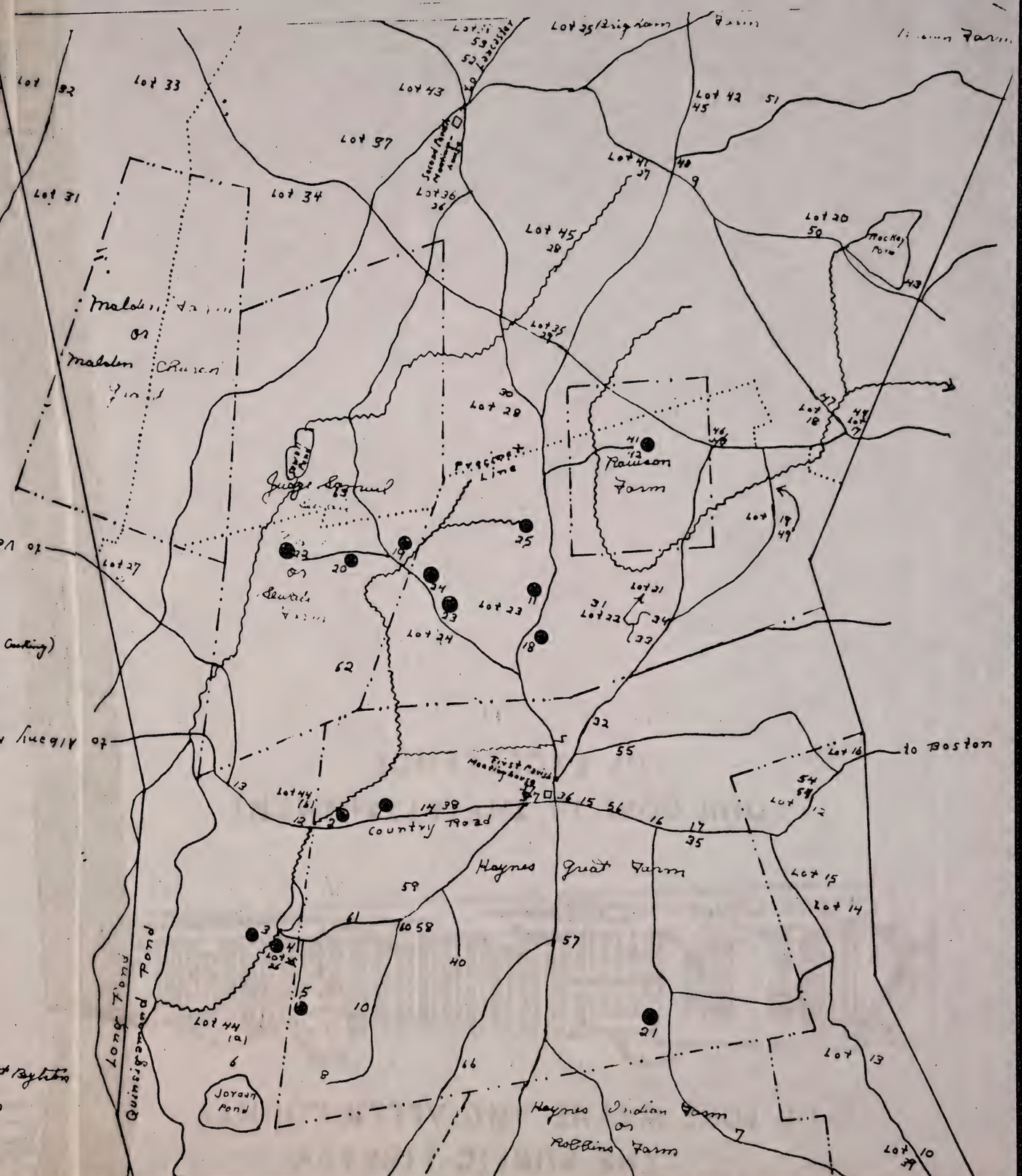
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Chart

Showing relationship of

Anna Drury and Jonathan Wheelock

Henry Rice married Elizabeth Moore
b England 1617 b
d Framingham,Mass. d Framingham,Mass.
Feb. 10, 1710 Aug. 23, 1705

Thomas Drury married Rachel Rice
b b Sudbury, Mass. May 10,1664
d Framingham,Mass. d

Samuel Wheelock married Lydia Rice
b Medfield, Mass. Jan. 21,1664 b Sudbury,Mass. June 4,1668
d Shrewsbury,Mass. 1745-49 d Shrewsbury,Mass. 1745-49

Caleb Drury married Elizabeth Eames
b 1688
d 1733

Gershom Wheelock married Abigail Flag
b 1692 b Watertown,Mass. Apr.16, 1694
d Shrewsbury, Mass. Mar. 16,1770 d Shrewsbury,Mass. Oct. 17,176

John Drury married Anna Gleason
b Framingham,Mass. June 18,1711 b Framingham, Mass. May 3, 1713
d d Shrewsbury,Mass. Nov. 6, 1766

Anna Drury married Jonathan Wheelock
bap. Natick, Mass. May 11,1735 b Shrewsbury, Mass. Sept. 18, 1727
d Cavendish, Vt. Oct. 4, 1802 d Cavendish, Vt. Oct. 21, 1798

Framingham, Mass. V.S.
Sudbury, Mass. V.S.
Medfield, Mass. V.S.
Watertown, Mass. V.S.
Shrewsbury, Mass. V.S.
Natick, Mass. Church Record
Cavendish, Vt. Cemetery Inscriptions